

# The Federal Retiree (Chapter 187)

Volume 28, Issue 2

June 2022

## State and Federal Senators and Representatives:

**Rep. Warren Davidson** 76 East High St, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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** (10<sup>th</sup> District) Senate Building, 1 Capitol Square, 1st Floor, Cols, OH 43215, (614) 466-3780

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

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

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

Email: #####

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our next meeting is scheduled for June 8, 2022. The chapter meeting will be located at Wittenberg University, Shouvlín Center, Room 105, starting at 12:00 noon. The Wittenberg Food Service will provide the same sandwich menu lunch items and drinks that we had at the last few meetings. The cost for the lunch is \$13.50 per person. Currently, there is no requirement to wear a face mask in the Wittenberg buildings.

Terry Black from United Senior Services will be our speaker. He has good advice on how to start a new small business. This information may help us or let us help a friend or family member who is thinking in those terms.

The NARFE magazine, May issue, lists the national and regional candidates for the 2022 election. Each candidate provides their qualification and interest to be elected. Instructions to vote via electronic devices will be provided in the August issue of the NARFE magazine.

## STATE LEGISLATION

No NARFE Issues Are Pending

## FEDERAL LEGISLATION/OTHER CONCERNS

The NARFE national convention (**FEDCON22**) is scheduled for August 21-23, 2022 at Weston

Kierland Resort and Spa in Scottsdale, Arizona. The convention is NARFE's first in-person event since 2019.

The long-sought-after legislation for **postal reform** was recently completed with bipartisan support. The passed version was supported by NARFE.

Two new NARFE supported bills were introduced to the full Senate. One addressed the **Honoring Civil Servants Killed in the Line of Duty Act S. 3487**. The bill increases compensation paid to survivors of federal employees who died in the line of duty. The change in compensation increased from \$10,000 to \$100,000 plus an increase in funeral expenses from \$800 to \$8,800. Also, annual cost of living adjustments are included.

The second bill, **Chance to Compete Act, S.3423** would change how federal agencies evaluate job applicants. The changes allow subject matter experts to serve as interviewers and focus assessments on candidates' ability to perform the actual job rather than self-ratings and college degrees.

**Social Security benefits** are being attacked by several congressional members in both parties. There are different considerations to reduce the full benefits such as cut out COLA (cost of living adjustments), reduce the amount paid, and/or stop all social security payments.

**Background:** Social Security started in 1935. The US government started the program because too many retirees did not have sufficient income to survive. The idea was to pay a small amount each payday during your working years and have an income in retirement. In the early sixties, the US Supreme court decided a case and issued a verdict that said that Social Security was a tax and there was no law that forced congress to pay the benefits.

In the last several decades, congress has taken over two trillion dollars from the Social Security fund to use at their discretion. Now the Social Security funds are getting very low and needs congress to pass a law to fund the benefits.

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

#### 9 MARCH 2022 MINUTES

The quarterly meeting of NARFE Chapter 187 was held in the Shouplin Center at Wittenberg University on Wednesday, March 9, 2022, 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.

Harold introduced the guest speaker, Stephanie McCuiston, Director of Community Relations, United Senior Services. She gave some of her background. She interned with Senator Luger and then worked with Dave Dobson until 2007. She then worked at Wittenburg for 12 years before coming to USS in 2019.

**Elderly United** started in 1968 in Springfield and with more growth came into the outer regions of Clark County. There are **ten areas** (and more to come) of help for the people of Clark County. They help with **Medicare sign-up**. They have **mental health help** and medical checks. The health outreach program helps with **home medical checks**. **Home Help** helps with grass mowing, small repairs, snow

removal, etc. to help people stay in their home. In Home services can provide **caregivers** to help give family members some respite. **Meal services** serve about 500 meals per day and at 6 meal sites across the county. They provide **recreation and education programs** downtown and at satellite sites in the county. They provide **transportation** to health appointments and errands, even going to Columbus, Cincinnati and Cleveland. There are **seasonal programs** for the holidays. Their **travel programs** are back and are great opportunities to see the country. They also have a **volunteer program** that is part of Americorp.

Their funding comes from several sources. First is the generous support from the Clark County residents. Federal funding (Title III) comes next. Grants from public and private sources help. Donors have been very generous. Golden fund was set up with money to pay for memberships and classes for those unable to pay.

There are only two programs not back on the schedule yet: R.E.A.D (Book club) and the monthly dinner and dance.

The free lunch was won by Debby Kunselman. The 50/50 was won by Charlesine Murph. Alzheimer's collected \$15.00.

Harold stated the NARFE-PAC is asking for more money during this election year to help promote our concerns. Election for NARFE positions will be from July 15 until August 31. Make sure your voice is heard. The National Convention will be August 21-23 in Arizona.

Paul Reichert had a letter for the members to sign to be sent to Warren Davison. Sharon Minnick gave the Treasurer's report. Meeting was adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

**Note:** We need to get our “old” members coming to meetings again and encourage new members to join us.

**Debby Kunselman, Secretary 864-####**

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

<b>Balance as of 31 Jan 2022</b>	<b>2555.68</b>
Dues	40.00
<b>Balance as of 28 Feb 22</b>	<b>2595.68</b>
Dues	49.84
Lunch	108.00
50/50	14.00
Alzheimer's	15.00
Printing	59.10
Stamps	46.40
Catering	148.50
<b>Balance as of 31 Mar 22</b>	<b>2528.52</b>
Dues	29.96
<b>Balance as of 30 Apr 22</b>	<b>2558.48</b>
<b>Savings`</b>	<b>14.17</b>
<b>CD</b>	<b>1853.78</b>
<b>Total Available</b>	<b>4426.43</b>

**Sharon Minick Treasurer 937-408-####**

**OPM ONLINE SERVICES**

Many of us have set up online accounts to access our Office of Personnel Management (OPM) account. It is a very handy way to change withholding amounts, change contact information and many other things without waiting to get through on the phone lines.

One has needed their retirement claim number and a password to access their account. However, starting May 26, 2022, the sign in process will change. This is supposed to make the information more secure.

OPM sent an email containing instructions for everyone that currently has an online OPM account. You need to create a login.gov account if you do not already have one. That account will use your email address as your

username – not the retirement claim number. Then you have to come up with a 12 character or more password. They suggest using a phrase or series of words that only you recognize. Apparently, you do not need to include numbers or special characters unless you want to.

Now, there will be a need to authenticate who you are every time you log in. That would be a text message, phone call or another option accepted by login.gov.

The instructions spell out how to link your OPM Services Online account with your login.gov account.

Some of us have something extra to consider. Each login.gov account needs a unique email address. If a married couple shares an email address (and they both have OPM pensions) or a person has two OPM pensions, they need to come up with a second email address. One person can have two pensions if they worked for the government themselves and they also have a survivor's pension. In the past, that person with two pensions probably used the same email address when setting up online accounts for each pension.

They also recommend strongly that you use a personal email address that you control when setting up login.gov. Do not use a work email address or one tied to a volunteer organization or a friend's or family email because you could lose access to that email.

**SOCIAL SECURITY ONLINE**

Because of the changes coming to the OPM online sign in procedures, I checked the online social security sign in. For those of you that receive social security payments, you may have set up an account already.

Once you set up your login.gov account, you can link your social security account to it as well as your OPM account. Then when you sign in to login.gov, you select whether you want to go to the OPM account or the Social Security one.

It looks like Social Security is not forcing people to set up login.gov yet. You can keep using your old username and password. However, if you are setting up a Social Security online account for the first time, then you must use login.gov to access it like OPM is going to do.

