



Ohio Federation Newsletter 2022

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

OCTOBER 2022

OHIO FEDERATION UPDATE

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FRAN LEISZ

REGION IV VP
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**REGION IV
ALZHEIMER'S COORDINATOR**
DIANA IULIANO-CHAN

President's Message

Annual Meeting

Meeting is going to be a ZOOM Meeting. It is scheduled for October 27, 2022 from 1:00 – 4:00pm. There is a maximum number of attendees of 100. To register for this meeting, you need to contact Tim Gartner at the email address listed below. Reports will be given by the Federation Officers, discuss any unfinished business, and then we will open discussion for our 2023 State Conference.

Tutorials for NARFE online

The Configuration Advisory Board (CAB) has developed a set of tutorials or training materials for NARFE officers and members to help you navigate the NARFE website and AMS. They will help the chapter officers to perform their official duties. Many of the materials are step-by-step directions for accomplishing a specific task, either as a multi-page document or a video.

From time to time, the CAB will also provide tutorials live and online through FEDHub. They are always updating the tutorials, so check back from time to time to see what may be NEW.

Membership

Chapter Members - We now stand at 2,156 members in twenty-seven (27) chapters. We are probably going to close two (2) chapters by the end of this year or the first part of 2023. With the closure of these two chapters the federation will not have any chapters located in Southeast Ohio. (Entire area east of I-71 in Cincinnati to Columbus and south of I-70 to Wheeling, WV.)

National-Only Members – We currently have 2,189 members throughout the state. Several of these members are quite active with NARFE online. The federation board is required to support and keep them informed on Membership/Legislative issues just as we do for our local chapters.

IF CHAPTER(s) are having a program with a speaker of interest or a congressperson / staff, make sure you inform a federation officer with the information about the program. We have the capabilities to notify the National only members living in your area. They may want to attend the program. Who knows, after attending a program of interest they may opt to join the chapter.

Tim Gartner
Ohio Federation President
narfetim48@gmail.com
740-404-9764

OHIO FEDERATION LEGISLATIVE REPORT – OCTOBER 2022

House Committee Advances WEP/GPO Repeal Bill; Future Uncertain

On September 20, the House Committee on Ways and Means voted to report the Social Security Fairness Act, H.R. 82, out of committee, but without recommendation. This is the furthest a bill to repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO) has advanced through the congressional process, and committee members expressed support for addressing the issue in some way, but the future path for the bill remains uncertain.

As a reminder, both the WEP and GPO unfairly reduce Social Security benefits of Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) annuitants, as well as many state and local government retirees, due to their receipt of a government pension.

The committee markup of the bill comes on the heels of a major push by NARFE at the national, grassroots and grassstops levels. Through coordination with NARFE's congressional allies and other allied organizations, we have been able to secure 302 cosponsors for H.R. 82. to date.

Due to a House of Representatives rule, adopted at the start of the 116th Congress and carried forward since then, the sponsor of any bill that accrues 290 cosponsors may file a motion to place the bill on the House Consensus Calendar. If the bill then maintains the 290 cosponsors for 25 legislative days, it will be placed on the calendar; the House must consider at least one bill from the calendar each week that the House is in session. Any bill on the calendar will remain there until it is considered by the full House, or "reported by the committee of primary jurisdiction" – in this case the House Committee on Ways and Means.

H.R. 82 accrued its 25 days on September 19, setting the stage for a House floor vote last week. With that vote imminent, the House Committee on Ways and Means held a committee business meeting where it reported the bill. In doing so, it removed the bill from the House Consensus Calendar, avoiding a floor vote.

While it was clear the purpose of the hearing was to prevent a floor vote on full repeal – due to concerns about Social Security solvency, primarily, according to committee leaders – every committee member who spoke at the hearing expressed a desire to address the inequities of WEP and GPO. Committee leaders support a more limited approach to reform WEP/GPO, as opposed to full repeal, but they did commit to working towards an agreement on mitigating the effect of the penalties. Ultimately, there was reason for both hope and concern about the prospects of future action.

Prior to the hearing, NARFE National President Ken Thomas sent Congress a letter urging them to advance the bill. Thomas cited that the bill "represents an opportunity to provide real relief to our nation's seniors and public servants." Following its advancement through the House, Thomas released a media statement urging House leaders to "commit, this month, to bring this bill to the floor for a vote."

As we move forward, it's critical that NARFE continues to pressure Congress to act on this issue, lest it falls to the backburner of concerns once again. Please contact your representatives now to urge them to support a floor vote on H.R. 82.

Go to (<https://votervoice.net/NARFE/campaigns/97507/respond>)

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT LEADERS

Required Prerequisites to be an Effective CDL/SL

Be a constituent living in the congressional district/state.

Have an established email address and ready access to the internet.

Be familiar with NARFE's Legislative Action Center and its products.

Possess a basic understanding of the legislative process.

Have strong oral and written communication skills, including:

- Being able to stay focused and on message.

- Communicating the NARFE position succinctly.

- Being comfortable meeting with and talking to people.

Be polite and assertive without being aggressive.

Remain nonpartisan and leave your personal opinions at the door to focus on NARFE legislative priorities and positions.

Be willing to work with NARFE Advocacy Department staff, participate in training seminars and receive guidance to advance your skills.

The Ohio Federation is seeking individuals interested in serving as Congressional District Leaders (CDLs) in each of Ohio's 15 congressional districts. These members would lead grassroots advocacy efforts in their congressional district. By dedicating one person to serve as the liaison between NARFE members and a congressional office, NARFE's grassroots efforts are streamlined, more professional, efficient and consistent in messaging. When surveyed, members of Congress and their staff have consistently reported that having one local point person on the ground is the most effective way to get views across and persuade members of Congress to take action. Building and maintaining relationships with congressional staff is critical to advancing NARFE's priorities. When the staff knows whom to contact within NARFE, they are more likely to reach out in advance of legislative action. By creating a CDL structure, our federation will streamline advocacy efforts and strengthen NARFE's message on Capitol Hill. By being more efficient in our advocacy efforts, NARFE will be more effective in protecting and enhancing the earned pay and benefits of our members. By working directly with a congressional office and the NARFE Advocacy Department staff, a CDL also will ensure every chapter and every member within a congressional district is receiving the same information regarding NARFE's advocacy efforts and priorities.

If you are interested in serving as a CDL for your district contact president Tim Gartner at narfetim48@gmail.com

For all those members who are currently serving as Legislative Officers in your chapters I thank you and appreciate your service to NARFE. And thank you to all of our members who contacted congress to advocate for our earned benefits.



OHIO CHAPTER NEWS

MICHAEL WEBB—DISTRICT VP—DAYTON DAYTON AREA OPEN SEASON EVENTS

Aetna Federal Plans representative will speak at a special Miami Valley Chapter 1927 luncheon meeting on Nov 17th at the MCL Cafeteria, 4485 Far Hills Ave (Route 48), Kettering, Ohio from 11:00 am to 1:00. The representative will start their presentation at noon.

Blue Cross/Blue Shields representative Wava Iker will be the featured speaker at the Greene County Chapter 2217 meeting on November 10 at the Lofino Plaza meeting room, adjacent to the Beavercreek Senior Center, 3868 Dayton Xenia Rd. The meeting will start at 1:00 and Wava will speak at 1:30.

Wava Iker will also appear at the Miami Valley Chapter luncheon meeting on December 2nd at the MCL Cafeteria in Kettering from 11:00 am to 1:00. Wava will start her presentation at noon. All attendees will be treated to a free slice of a assortment of MCL pies.

LYNNETTE RARICK—DISTRICT VP—TOLEDO

Toledo Chapter 226— Toledo Chapter began back to meetings in May after a 26-month hiatus. We needed to elect a President since David Beisel's resignation took effect Oct. 2021. All other officers were willing to stay in their present positions, Lynnette Rarick was elected [Interim] President. Our first three months back, found us at three different venues for our lunch and business meeting format. At our July 11th meeting, the Chapter encountered several changes including elimination of two positions, these positions could be reinstated in the future. Later in July, three officers successfully secured our former meeting location for August through December of 2022. We meet at Michael's Grill, 901 Monroe St. downtown Toledo on the first Monday of every month, with the exception of September (Labor Day) moved to second Monday for September. If July 4th falls on Monday, the July meeting is moved to second Monday. Several newsletters and postcard mailings were sent to members to inform them of our meeting location and our events. A March mailing included a *Welcome Letter* to Chapter 1030 member-transfers with a postcard for them to respond. Two members did respond and we DID have a Chapter 1030 member, Joyce Bower, DID attend our Oct. 3 meeting. The Chapter also sent a newsletter in July and postcard mailings in June and September. At the October 3 meeting, we had another 'first-timer' attend. [to date, four mailings in calendar year 2022]

Bryan Chapter 1136—Federation Secretary, Diana Diller, agreed to become Bryan Chapter 1136 President. Lynnette Rarick agreed to be Bryan Chapter Secretary-Treasurer. Both Bryan Officers are NOT Bryan Chapter members. Bryan's membership is 10 members, who are all on Dues Withholding. Bryan Chapter members did receive a March letter which included a pre-stamped return postcard for their comments. *Hopefully things will get back to normal and the chapters will be strong.*

JOE LEISZ—DISTRICT VP—CLEVELAND

CHAPTER 2232 CLEVELAND EAST—A meeting was held on September 23, 2022 at the Shaker Heights Library. Federation President Tim Gartner and Federation Legislation VP Sandy Gartner were invited to speak. Joe Leisz, District VP and Fran Leisz, Federation Alzheimer's chair were also in attendance. Kudos to Chapter President Delores Gaines for a very good meeting with 25 members in attendance. Chapter 2232 has done a great job recruiting officers for their chapter. Positions of President, Membership, Legislation, NARFE-PAC, Secretary, Treasurer, Alzheimer's and Parliamentarian are all filled. A good discussion was held on membership. This chapter has 98 members of which 42 are one year members, 7 two year, 11 three year, **34 dues withholding** and 4 life members. When recruiting let the new member know about dues withholding which saves the member money and also NARFE national since they don't have to send out renewal notices. Legislative issues were discussed and information was given on the upcoming Ohio Federation Annual Meeting which will be held on October 27th.

FEDHub – Let's Connect!

By Dorothy Creswell, TX Federation District 12 Representative

I read the Q & A section in each issue of NARFE Magazine and it's popular with many NARFE members. I'm sure that's why one of the more popular communities on NARFE's new FEDHub online resource is "The Retirement Zone" where active and retired federal employees get their own questions answered in real time. The answers may come from other members, from NARFE Federal Benefits Institute (NFBI) staff members, or even a popular presenter of NFIB webinars like Tammy Flanagan.

FEDHub is an online community designed for all. Like social media sites it has a selection of communities, each focused on a topic or interest area. Many evolved from growing discussions in the Open Forum that every member belongs to automatically. For example, some are specific to where you work or did work like the "U. S. Postal Service Community."

The "Open Forum" has discussions on topics such as advocacy, Federal Employee Health Benefit (FEHB) plan choices, and many more. In preparation for Public Service Recognition Week in May, NARFE invites members to contribute their stories via FEDHub. There are also communities to meet and get to know the 2022 candidates for NARFE national and regional office, and proposed bylaws amendments.

"Hail a CAB!" lets Officers interact with the ten volunteers of NARFE's Configuration Advisory Board. The CAB serves as an interface for NARFE's Information Technology online systems. Here you can ask questions, get help, and find out about helpful resources. Because Excel is an important tool for working with files from the online membership system, Region IX CAB Representative Linda Wallers recently gave a free Zoom tutorial on how to use them more easily.

To get started with FEDHub, go to the NARFE website at www.narfe.org and from the "For Members" menu select "FEDHub: NARFE Member Community." Log in using the same credentials you use to log into NARFE's Member Portal. (If you haven't logged in before, click the "Contact Us" link near the top of the screen.) Once logged in, start at the top left by selecting the link to the Quick Start Guide at the top left. Next fill in your profile. You can add a picture or leave it for later.

Now, join the conversation! In the middle of the top menu is the "Communities" drop-down menu. You automatically belong to the "Open Forum", but if you select "Suggested Communities" you can see other choices. For each community you may select whether to receive a periodic digest of new messages options for frequency and combining forums, or none at all.

Shortly, FEDHub will have a community set up for each federation and chapter. Members will be notified once their community is available.



Hello Ohio Federation Chapter Members:

It has been a long time for our chapters to meet due to COVID 19. For those who have been a supporter of NARFE Alzheimer's Research and have continued to send money THANK YOU. Many chapters are starting to meet again. I am asking that you remember to keep NARFE Alzheimer's in mind and make a contribution to NARFE Alzheimer's Research. This is a devastating disease that there is no cure for it at this time. The medicine out there can only slow it down. In the past year I have received money from a few chapters. I hope you are well and stay healthy. Please remember to send a contribution to NARFE Alzheimer's Research. You can send it to me at Fran Leisz, 6410 Sunderland Drive, Parma OH 44129-4634. Remember to make your check out to NARFE Alzheimer's Research.

Thank You very much.

Fran Leisz

Ohio Federation Alzheimer's Chairperson

NARFE NATIONAL ALZHEIMER'S FUND

NARFE is proud to announce that NARFE's Alzheimer's Fund has achieved its goal of donating \$15 million to Alzheimer's research. Since 1983, NARFE members have played a major role in seeking a cure for Alzheimer's disease. Through its partnership with the Alzheimer's Association, NARFE supports research into the causes, prevention, detection and effective treatment of Alzheimer's and all other dementia. Public education on the need for research – our only tool for conquering the disease – also is an important focus. All NARFE Alzheimer's Fund contributions go directly to Alzheimer's Research, with the exception of funds given to the Walk to End Alzheimer's and The Longest Day. Earlier this month, NARFE announced it will continue its long-standing support of the Alzheimer's Association, agreeing to raise another \$1 million for the Association's full mission by the end of 2025. For nearly four decades, NARFE has distinguished itself as one of the Alzheimer's Association top research funders, and its members have contributed to 85 grants supporting wide-ranging, disease-related research. Additionally, the Alzheimer's Association is grateful for the many NARFE members who support our cause in their local communities through participation in the Walk to End Alzheimer's. Since 2016, NARFE has participated in Walk as a National Team, raising more than \$300,000 in more than 60 communities across the country. From its leaders to its members, NARFE has been 'all in' in the fight to end Alzheimer's.