

The Federal Retiree (Chapter 187)

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State and Federal Senators and Representatives:

Rep. Warren Davidson 8857 Cincinnati-Dayton Rd Suite 102, West Chester, OH 45069, (937) 339-1524

Sen. Sherrod Brown 801 West Superior Ave Suite 1400, Cleveland, OH 44113, (216) 522-7272

Sen. J. D. Vance 37 West Broad St. Rm 300, Columbus, OH 43215, (614) 369-4925

State Senator Bob D. Hackett (10th District) Senate Building, 1 Capitol Square, 1st Floor 132, Cols, OH 43215, (614) 466-3780

State Representative Bernard Willis (74th District) 77 S. High St. 11th Floor, Columbus, OH 43215, (614) 466-2038

State Representative Bill Dean (71th 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 scheduled for March 8, 2023. The Chapter meeting will be located at Wittenberg University, Student Union Building (connected to the Shouplin Center) second floor near the cafeteria, called the Alumni Room, starting at 12:00 noon. Our luncheon procedure is the same as we did in December. We will assemble in the room and then go to the cafeteria as a group. Each person will pay for their lunch at the entrance, get a tray, get your food and return to the room to eat. We do not have to return the trays/silverware to the cafeteria. The cost for lunch in December was \$8.50.

Our scheduled **speaker** is from the **Blue Cross/Blue Shield** Federal Employee Program. Most of us have that insurance. It should be a very interesting and helpful session.

The Ohio State Federation of Chapters has scheduled a conference for 2023. Conference details are included in this newsletter. Now that the COVID-19 pandemic has lessened in our society, perhaps we can return to our normal activities. We hope more members will be able to attend the scheduled conference.

STATE LEGISLATION

No NARFE Issues are pending

FEDERAL LEGISLATION/OTHER CONCERNS

In the NARFE Magazine, Jan/Feb issue, pages 32-35, there is a very good summary of the legislative proposals and issues that NARFE supports and those that NARFE opposes. NARFE plans to use this information for advocacy positions to work with the 118th congress (2023-2024). Most of the listed items require legislation to accomplish, and that will be difficult to do.

Currently, a Workplace Safety Bill was advanced by the House Oversight and Reform Committee. A very similar bill failed to pass in previous years. The bill has merit to protect employees in case of emergencies like COVID-19. Agencies would establish protocols that follow guidelines including testing, cleaning, occupancy limits, personal protective equipment, notification of individuals who were possible exposed and protections for employees who travel off-site. The safety protocol process will be posted for all employees, contractors, and subcontractors. Visitors to federal facilities would be required to follow established safety protocols also.

NARFE National has a relatively new communications device/method known as FEDHUB. It is envisioned that FEDHUB would be a package deal with NARFE Newslines and other online communications to reach potential new members. If FEDHUB becomes the main

conduit to Human Resources (H.R.) offices at various federal agencies, that could become a new source for new NARFE members. HR personnel could provide information to their groups concerning webinars offered by the Federal Benefits Institute and other useful information.

Unless congressional members can reach agreement soon to support Social Security and Medicare, these two government programs will not survive as they are today. Congress is close to being evenly divided in numbers and philosophy. Some want to reduce payouts and maybe even privatize or eliminate the programs. Others want to make laws that support keeping the programs intact for the foreseeable future. No doubt, some sort of changes need to be made.

If Social Security were to be eliminated, we would have a hardship situation much worse than in 1935 because the population is much larger. Social security was started because many retirees did not have the financial means to survive. The U.S. government stepped in to provide a lasting program that collected a small amount each pay period to establish a retirement income after retirement.

All went well until 1960 when the US Supreme Court ruled that Social Security was a charity from the government and there was no law that stated that the US government had to pay social security benefits. Congress continued to pay social security benefits but some congressional members (both political parties) took advantage of the US Supreme Court ruling that congress did not have to pay benefits. The members used a lot (over 2 trillion dollars) of the social security funds for other purposes. This practice continued and now the social security surplus funds are gone. Also, there was a surge of retirees during the COVID-19 pandemic which reduced the deposits for social security.

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

E-mail: #####

OHIO FEDERATION CONFERENCE

The 2023 one day Conference will be held at the Der Dutchman Restaurant, 720 State Route 97 W., Bellville, Ohio on **April 22nd** from 9:00am to 4:00pm. The registration fee is \$25 per attendee and includes morning coffee & pastries and a buffet lunch.

The **theme** this year is **Educating and Energizing Ohio NARFE Members.**

The conference is open to **all** Ohio NARFE members. This includes our National-only and Chapter members.

The one-day Conference agenda will include: Reports on the **State of the Federation** Educational workshops on **Development of Leadership, Legislative Action Center**, and other NARFE Benefits/Services as time permits.

Please let our secretary know at the upcoming meeting or by phone if you are interested in attending. That way, she can register you for the conference.

14 DECEMBER MINUTES

The quarterly meeting of NARFE Chapter 187 was held in the Student Union Building (connected to the Shoulvin Center) in the Alumni Room on the second floor at Wittenberg University on Wednesday, December 14, 2022, at noon.

Entertainment for the day was the Vintage Voices from the United Senior Services. They sang Christmas music and carols with a sing-along section. It was a smaller group than normal due to sickness of its members.

President Harold Crews led the members in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. Lunch was served in the cafeteria which had a lovely selection of foods to choose from.

The business portion of the meeting started with the 50/50 drawing and the winner was guest Scott Graham, Treasurer of Chapter 1927 – Miami Valley Chapter. Alzheimer’s collected \$18.00.

The National Convention in 2024 will be held in St. Louis, Missouri. They usually have about 500 people attend with an average age of 80. Anyone planning on attending?

A discussion was held about the chapters and the up and down of membership. The members present were asked if Chapter 187 needs to be closed. Those present voted that the chapter stay open. The meeting next time (March 2023) will be in the same location as today.

Debby Kunselman, Secretary 937-232-####

TREASURER’S REPORT

Balance as of 31 Oct 22	2559.52
Dues	90.00
Balance as of 30 Nov 22	2649.52
Dues	29.92
50/50	12.50
Alz	18.00
Deposit of change cash no longer needed	100.00
Box King	63.75
Stamps	42.00
Newsletter Honorarium	100.00
Flowers	21.45
Balance as of 31 Dec 22	2582.74
Dues	109.88
Vintage Voices	100.00
Alz Research	118.00
Balance as of 31 Jan 23	2474.62
Savings`	14.17
CD	1862.20
Total Available	4450.99

Sharon Minick Treasurer 937-408-####

CHAPTER OFFICERS

Paul Reichert, our Service Officer, is now also taking over as Treasurer. Other than that we are fortunate to have the same people manning the officer positions as before. Our chapter is lucky to have people willing to be officers. Many much larger chapters have closed because of a lack of members willing to step up to take on officer positions.

The current officers are:

President	Harold Crews
Vice President	Joe Kleehammer
Secretary	Debby Kunselman
Treasurer	Paul Reichert

INCOME TAXES

There is free income tax preparation available at United Senior services (USS). They prepare tax returns Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 11 AM to about 4 PM. You must have an appointment. You do not need to be a member of USS or be a senior citizen to get your taxes done. However, they do not handle returns with rental property or significant small businesses.

Barb Wieland is one of the AARP tax preparers at USS. For those of you with a survivor’s pension (1099-R with a code 4), Ohio changed its rules a few years ago. 1099-R code 4 income can now be subtracted from Ohio income on the survivor’s benefits line no matter when the decedent passed away. That is saving money for some of the customers this year. Be aware that this does not apply to IRA income. That remains taxable even if it has a code 4.

For those that are not aware, it only costs \$15 a year for Clark County residents to belong to USS. They have an exercise room and a couple of swimming pools. Also, there are always people around with whom to play cards or pool.