

JULY 2023

OHIO FEDERATION UPDATE

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REGION IV
ALZHEIMER'S COORDENATOR
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President's Message



This is a busy time of the year with lots of our federal community partners having conferences and conventions. This year we attended a Resource Fair close to home at Heritage Hall in Newark, Ohio. This is where we hold our local Chapter 310 meetings. There were over 300 attendees and we talked to most everyone because they each had a 'passport' that had to be stamped by each vendor. This is a great way to get everyone to your booth.

We saw many retirees that we worked with at Newark Air Force Base during our careers as federal employees. Many of the people who came to our table told us they are affected by the WEP/GPO. We gave them information on how to contact their legislators about the bills NARFE supports. We told them to tell their personal stories of how these unfair bills affect them in their retirement.

There were also many postal workers who will be in the new Postal Service Health Benefits (PSHB) Program. This is a new, separate program within the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program, administered by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) which will provide health insurance to eligible Postal Service employees, Postal Service annuitants, and their eligible family members starting in 2025. The PSHB Program coverage will replace Federal Employees Health Benefit (FEHB) Program coverage for these groups.

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We attended the **Ohio UPMA (United Postmasters and Managers Association)** June 1 – 4, 2023. It was held at the Hocking Hills State Park Lodge near Logan and Nelsonville, southeast of Columbus Ohio. I reported on NARFE’s Legislative Agenda and information on the new (PSHB) Postal Service Health Benefits Program.



Joe Cinadr, Past National President of the League of Postmasters attended with his wife Barbara. His granddaughter Eva Cinadr was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to Ohio University where she will be attending in the fall. **Congratulation from the Ohio Federation of NARFE.**

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We attended the **Ohio Rural Letter Carriers** Convention in Canton, Ohio. This is another group where we are able to speak about NARFE's mission and current legislative agenda. They were very interested in the new (PSHB) Postal Service Health Benefits Program. We passed out NARFE's Fact Sheets on The Postal Service Reform Act of 2022 which created a new Postal Service Health Benefits (PSHB) program within the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) program starting in January 2025. All postal employees and postal annuitants will be offered their earned health benefits through the PSHB program at that time.

Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Wellness and Resources Fair— Thanks to Wava Iker, our BC/BS Account Executive we were invited to attend this event at the John Glenn International Airport in Columbus. This was an opportunity to inform this group about what NARFE is and the benefits of becoming NARFE members.

UPCOMING FEDERATION PRESIDENT'S MEETING: I will be attending the joint NARFE National Executive Board and Federation Presidents meeting in Alexandria, VA. The agendas for both the National Executive Board and the Federation Presidents meetings are still being developed. This is an opportunity for Federation President's from across the country to come together and discuss issues important to NARFE's mission.

Tim Gartner
Ohio Federation President

IT PAYS TO BE A NARFE MEMBER

NARFE members enjoy a wealth of benefits that serve their information and financial needs. They also have the satisfaction of knowing they are putting their weight behind a legislative powerhouse that is determined to defend the federal community.

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT FROM NARFE HQ.
ENDING JUNE 30, 2023**

Following is information on membership from our new Director of Member Engagement:

By Region	Total	Chapter	National
Region I	10,717	4,880	5,837
Region II	22,467	11,259	11,207
Region III	17,161	8,270	8,890
Region IV	14,979	7,344	7,635
Region V	11,567	6,181	5,386
Region VI	10,440	5,504	4,936
Region VII	8,419	2,576	5,843
Region VIII	13,790	6,653	7,137
Region IX	8,095	3,476	4,619
Region X	18,793	7,797	10,998
Foreign	283	1	282
Grand Total	136,711	63,941	72,770

Nora MacDonald, Director, Member Engagement
nmacdonald@narfe.org

Membership Report (as of 7-25-2023)

Here is the latest Membership numbers for each chapter and the national-only (N-O) members living in the chapter's Logistic Support Area (LSA). We have 16 chapters with more N-O members in their LSA than they have chapter members.

I am hoping to attend the Federation Presidents and the National Executive Board meetings at the end of next month (Aug 28-30, 2023). If any Federation/Chapter Officers have any suggestions/ideas as to how we may be able to get members to volunteer at the chapter or federation level, PLEASE email me your Idea(s) / suggestion(s) so I can discuss them with the federation presidents in August.

We all know, NARFE, the federations, and Chapters need volunteers to step forward at all levels of NARFE.

Tim Gartner

Chap	Chp Mbrs	Nat-only	Chapter	Chp mbrs	Nat-only
14	33	40	624	19	11
168	46	61	635	40	50
187	70	85	1136	8	4
226	67	73	1592	61	81
235	138	280	1856	16	11
265	204	227	1927	147	121
310	281	110	2122	14	18
317	29	45	2182	21	61
341	64	48	2217	134	121
382	27	23	2232	96	100
470	185	187	2238	93	178
569	60	55	2264	82	106
612	<u>22</u>	<u>43</u>	2359	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>
	1226	1277		733	862

TOTAL CHAPTER MEMBERS = 1959

TOTAL NATIONAL ONLY MEMBERS = 2139

Tim Gartner—Ohio Federation President

NARFE Ohio Federation Advocacy Update

**Albert Griggs, Jr.,
Vice President, Legislation**

August is grassroots advocacy month. Congress will be in recess. Most members of the United States House of Representatives and United States Senate will be in their home districts and States. All members of NARFE should take advantage of the time to contact their Congressman/woman and Senators, let them know where we stand in support of legislation supported by NARFE. The more of us (individually and as a group) that contact them, the more impact we have on how they approach our concerns. Member voices are crucial to advancing NARFE's legislative priorities. Members of Congress want to hear from their constituents about how issues are affecting their lives. Speak up and encourage others to do the same to join the fight to protect the earned pay, rights, and benefits of all active federal/postal employees, retirees, and annuitant survivors. Please go to the NARFE Advocacy page (www.narfe.org/advocacy) for more information. While on the advocacy page, please look at the Legislative Action Center. There are instructions on how to send your Congressman/woman, and Senators letters voicing your support and concerns on legislation that impacts you and NARFE positively or negatively. A list of NARFE supported and not supported legislation currently being considered in the 118th congress can be found on pages 14 and 16 of the August NARFE Magazine.

As part of grassroots month activities, I have sent letters to both Ohio Senators requesting a face to face meeting. I will update you in future newsletters on the results of the meetings, if they are granted.

The House passed the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2024 on Friday, July 14, 2023. The Senate plans to vote on the bill before the August recess. Once both Houses pass the bill, it will have to go to Conference Committee for final resolution and floor votes. As this bill goes through this process, we as active and retired federal employees need to be aware of the amendments that are being proposed for the bill. Some of these amendments if accepted will have very negative impact on federal employees, active and retired. For example: the annuity portion of the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) could be eliminated entirely, limiting federal retirement compensation to contributions to the Thrift Saving Plan (TSP) only. Further, federal pay impacts, could include ending across-the-board pay increases, limiting bonuses and changing the federal pay scale. Paid leave policies could be changed.

LEGCon 2023 NARFE's Virtual Legislative Conference

I recently attended the legislative conference along with over 220 NARFE members from across the country to take our NARFE messages directly to Congress.

The platform they used for the virtual training and meetings was very easy to use with lots of background information at your fingertips. The training on June 14th "Know Before You Go" was very helpful.

Day 1 and 2 (June 20 & 21) included presentations focused on crucial topics such as strategies for effective communication with Congress, maximizing the impact of congressional meetings and educating members of congress on what NARFE is all about and our grassroots actions.

Day 3 (June 22) was the virtual advocacy day. This was an opportunity to directly engage with the legislators or their staff, discussing pressing issues and advocating for the interest of federal employees and retirees.

I had the opportunity to meet with Brian Oakes, Legislative Assistant for Senator J.D. Vance, (R) and let him know what NARFE is all about. I let him know that we represent the interests of all federal and postal employees and retirees and that our members live and work in every congressional district in the state of Ohio and that our mission is to defend and advance the earned pay and benefits of America's civil servants. There were three issues that were on the agenda for the meeting: WEP/GPO Repeal, Fair COLAs and support to protect our earned benefits. We discussed the three issues and I ask for Senator Vance's support in the future.

I also met with Andy Dickson, Staff Assistant for Senator Sherrod Brown (D) who introduced S. 597 the WEP/GPO Repeal bill in the senate. We also discussed the other issues listed above. Senator Brown has been a supporter of federal employees and retirees and I ask that he thank him for his previous support.

Next I met with Megan Porter, Legislative Assistant for Representative Troy Balderson (R). He is my representative in District 12. I ask her to thank him for co-sponsoring H.R. 82 the WEP/GPO Repeal bill in the house. I told her that our issues are a matter of fairness to federal employees and retirees and ask that he support us in the future to keep the benefits that we earned over our many years of service.

Sandy Gartner/Columbus Area DVP

OHIO CHAPTER NEWS

MICHAEL WEBB—DISTRICT VP—DAYTON AREA

DAYTON DISTRICT FALL CHAPTER MEETINGS

All NARFE members, federal employees, retirees, and their guests are welcome to attend Chapter Meetings

Springfield Chapter 187

Wednesday, September 13th at Noon. speaker TBD

Wednesday, December 13th at Noon. this Holiday meeting will feature the Vintage Voices Choir performing Christmas music.

The meetings will be held at Wittenberg University Student Union Building (connected to the Shouplin Center) in the Alumni Room on the second floor near the Cafeteria, 734 Woodlawn Ave, Springfield. Lunches are available at the second floor cafeteria. Attendees assemble in the meeting room and then proceed to the cafeteria as a group. Each person pays for their lunch at the entrance and returns to the meeting room to eat. The cost for lunch is approximately \$8.50 per person.

Miami Valley Chapter 1927 (Kettering)

Friday, October 6th, 10th District Congressman Michael Turner has been invited to speak.

Thursday, November 16th, Aetna Representative Bud Jones will be the guest speaker at this Open Season event.

Friday, December 1st, Blue Cross/Blue Shield representative Wava Iker is scheduled to present for Open Season. All attendees will be treated to free slices of MCL Bakery Pies.

Miami Valley Chapter 1927 Meetings are held monthly in the MCL Cafeteria's private dining room, 4485 Far Hills Ave, Kettering. The chapter meets for lunch at 11:00 and the meeting starts at 11:30. Chapter meetings are held the first Friday of even numbered months year round and features a guest speaker starting at noon. The Chapter's Executive Board meets the third Thursday of odd numbered months year round where chapter business and NARFE issues are discussed. Both meetings are open to all NARFE members and non-members wanting to learn more about NARFE and the Chapter.

Huber Heights Chapter 2238

September 15th at Noon. Speaker TBD

October 20th at Noon. Speaker TBD

November 17th at Noon. Speaker TBD

December 15, at Noon

Huber Heights Chapter 2238 hold chapter meetings at noon on the third Friday of every month except for July and August at the Studebaker's Country Restaurant, 416 N. Main Street, New Carlisle, Ohio in its party room. The June meeting is their chapter's annual picnic at a local park.

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Greene County Chapter 2217

September 14, at 1:00 pm. The speaker at about 1:30 PM will be Jason Tincu, Director of Greene County Sanitary Engineering Department (GCSED). He will discuss Greene County water supply projects with emphasis on softening the water with a process that does not add sodium to the water. The change over will take place in 2024.

November 9th at 1:00 pm. Wava Iker from Blue Cross/Blue Shield will be the guest speaker starting at 1:30 with her Open Season presentation.

Greene County Chapter 2217 invites all NARFE members, federal employees and retirees to its Chapter meetings held at the Lofino Plaza meeting Room, next to the Beaver Creek Senior Center, 3868 Dayton Xenia Road, the 2nd Thursday of odd numbered months beginning in January. Meetings generally start at 1:00 pm with a business meeting with the guest speaker starting at 1:30.

GET THE WORD OUT ABOUT YOUR UPCOMING MEETINGS

Check out your local newspaper to see if they have a section on local news. The Miami Valley Chapter 1927 recently had an article in the DAYTON DAILY NEWS DATED JULY 23, 2023 in their LOCAL FOCUS SECTION. It was about their next meeting which will be held on August 4th. The article included the location of the meeting, the time and information about the speaker's program. All NARFE members, federal employees, retirees and guests are welcome at their meetings. To learn more about the Miami Valley Chapter 1927 and the NARE Association go to their website at www.narfe.net/site/chatper1927.



Albert Griggs Jr., met Senator Sherrod Brown at July 30th fundraiser, held at the Montgomery County Democratic Party HQ, in Dayton, OH was well attended. I was told 100 people had RSVP'd for the event. I estimate there were over a hundred in attendance. NARFE attendees were Mike Webb, Mike Madges, Mike Ryan, and me. The Senator spotted our NARFE badges and commented "NARFE is here." It seems he is well aware of NARFE, and rightly so. He has voted positively 100% with NARFE supported legislation. The Senator's speech covered a number of topics to include veteran, child tax credit, and union issues. During the question and answer period, Mike Madges asked the Senator what was his opinion of the current assault on the Merit System? The Senator stated that he has a bipartisan group of Senators that support a strong Merit System. However, they can't push any legislation forward because they don't have enough votes (60) to overcome the filibuster at this time. He ended by stating his strong support for a strong Merit System and a professional Federal Civil Service.



Members of Chapter 1927 attending event with Senator Sharrod Brown. Left to right: Ohio Federation Legislative VP, Albert Griggs, JR., Mike Ryan, Senator Sharrod Brown, Mike Madges and Michael Webb.

NARFE MEMBERSHIP RECRUITING



Our Miami Valley Chapter 1927 participated in a Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Wellness and Resources Fair conducted at the Dayton International Airport on Wednesday, June 14th. Mike Webb and Mike Madges introduced NARFE to several active TSA employees at this midday event. It remains a recurring challenge to inform the federal community of our existence and the benefits we derive from NARFE membership. Many thanks to Wava Iker, BC/BS Account Executive for the invitation and to Michaele Ludy, TSA Ohio Mission Support Team for her hospitality. NARFE Membership Recruiting is Always in Season.

DOD RETIREE ACCESS MOVES TO REAL ID

DOD civilian retirees must now enroll their REAL ID-compliant driver's license to maintain access to military installations. To enroll their REAL ID, civilian retirees MUST bring a copy of their retirement Standard Form-50 (SF-50) and their compliant driver's license to the SF Pass and ID building at the end of the Bldg 262 main parking lot (4185 Logistics Avenue, Bldg. 286, Area A). Enrollment is only good for Wright-Patterson AFB. You must enroll at EACH installation you plan to access. Once enrolled, retirees can use their driver's license as their base credentials. You must re-enroll when your license expires or have been issued a new one. CAC cards will no longer be valid for entry after August 2023. If you try to use the card, when scanned, the readers will say "denied" and the card will be confiscated. If you do not have a copy of your retirement SF-50, you can get a copy from OPM by requesting one in writing.

Access to military installations and use of MWR activities is at the discretion of the installation commander.

DOD ID cards will no longer be issued to dependents of civilian employees and dependents of retired civilian retirees.

LYNNETTE RARICK—DISTRICT VP—TOLEDO AREA

Toledo District VP

Chapters in Toledo District

Toledo Chapter 226; Lima – John-Polk Chapter 317; Firelands/Sandusky Chapter 382
Bryan Chapter 1136 and Fulton-Henry County 1856.

Toledo Chapter 226

Chapter 226 meets the first Monday of every month, but the second Monday in September. Throughout the year, the Chapter was struggling to 'hold' the meeting location. The restaurant did announce they would not be able to accommodate us after June. The Chapter now meets at the Main Branch of the Toledo Lucas County Library. The chapter has a 30-person capacity room that is immediately after entering from the parking garage. [where parking is free]. Our July meeting went remarkably quickly, even with two "guest" speakers. The group still has its raffle which 'funds' our annual NARFE Alzheimer' Research donations. On Saturday, July 8, our former Sunshine Chair, Renee Speelman, passed away. In the past, Toledo Chapter has donated \$25 to NARFE Alzheimer Research when a regular meeting attendee passes.

John Polk/Lima Chapter 317

Chapter 317 meets the third Tuesday of EVEN-numbered months. The Chapter meeting was held at Shawnee Westside Pizza on Tuesday, June 20. Diana Diller is the Secretary-Treasurer and has a two-sided report that she hands out at meetings. Alice Bennet, Chapter President, has a vast knowledge and great grasp on Legislative Issues. Fred, who is also a NALC [Letter Carrier] Union President explained the Postal Health Care Plan that will become mandatory January 2025.

Firelands/Sandusky Chapter 382

Chapter 382 meets the 4th Monday at 1:00pm Except January, February, June, July
May 22, 2023, Firelands/Sandusky Chapter met at Golden Corral. Bob Kanney and all the members were very gracious and hospitable. Bob, Chapter Treasurer, gave his report and he does hold a meeting raffle. Harry McCune gave his Membership Report. There was an issue with a member who transferred from National Only to being a Chapter Member. Both he and the Chapter Treasurer did receive a notice of the transfer/change, but that member was not on the Chapter Roster. An inquiry was sent to the Membership Department at HQ. Harry McCune announced there would be no August meeting; the next Chapter 382 meeting will be Monday, September 25, 2023. I brought raffle prizes for future meetings, left them with Bob Kanney. As a follow-up, I asked HQ for Chapter 382 Constitution and Bylaws; those and the Preferred Standard Bylaws booklet were mailed to Bob Kanney.

Bryan Chapter - 1136

The Chapter previously met the third Thursday in April and September

Chapter 1136 did not resume chapter meetings after CoVid. None of the Chapter members are able to attend in-person meetings. Chapter members are contacted by letter or postcards at least once per year. The members have pre-addressed, postage paid postcards to use for communicating with the Chapter Officers. Diana Diller (from Lima Chapter) and I (from Toledo Chapter) are the officers of this chapter.

All the Chapter members are on Dues Withholding.

On June 20, at the close of the Lima Meeting, Diana Diller and I had a quick Bryan 'meeting', where I gave her the newest Chapter 1136 F-7 and Diana gave me the current balance in the checking and savings accounts that are with InFirst Federal Credit Union.

Fulton-Henry County Chapter 1856

Chapter 1856 meets the First Wednesday of odd-numbered months.

The Wednesday, July 5, 2023, meeting was at Delta 109. There were two members able to attend. Rosters, F-10, Bylaws format were offered to the officer. Mary Graham, Cathy Schuchert and I picked a location and listed several dates for the Chapter Audit. The Audit was Monday, July 17 at the Oregon Branch of the Toledo Public Library.

Toledo District VP – Lynnette Rarick

Treasurer's Report – the Conference Profit and Loss statement was completed and reported to the Board members. The Second Quarter 2023 Financial Report is now available for review by the Board.

Ohio Federation Treasurer, Lynnette Rarick

SANDY GARTNER-DISTRICT VP-COLUMBUS AREA



Chapter 235 Columbus currently there are 138 chapter members and 280-national only members for a total of 418 members. The chapter held their first meeting since the pandemic on Thursday, July 6, at the MCL Cafeteria, 5240 E. Main St, Whitehall, OH, for lunch starting at 11:00 am, with the meeting starting around 11:45. Tim Gartner the NARFE Ohio Federation President swore in the new officers. They are as follows: Joe Self/ President, Mary Ellen Spinks/ Legislative VP, Mary Seal/Secretary—Treasurer and

Phyllis Bryan/Alzheimer's Chairperson. Bill Settles Legislative VP from Chapter 310 attended the meeting and reported on important issues that affect federal employees and retirees. Of special concern is the new Postal Health Benefit Program. The next meeting will be on August 3rd.

Chapter 310 Licking County Newark meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at Heritage Hall Senior Center located at 1058 E Main St., Newark, OH. Currently there are 281-chapter members and 110-national only members for a total of 391. The chapter participated in the Senior Health and Wellness Expo at Heritage Hall in June. There were approximately 300 attendees and many of them are affected by the WEP/GPO. We passed out NARFE Fact Sheets about this issue and urged them to contact their representatives in congress. They all had personal stories of how this legislation affects their retirement and we urged them to tell their stories to their representatives. The next meeting will be the annual picnic on August 8th.

Chapter 612 Johnny Appleseed_Mansfield currently has 22-chapter members and 43-national only members for a total of 65. They meet at the Golden Corral Restaurant, 575 Lexington-Springmill Rd., Ontario, OH on the second Monday of the month at 1:00 for lunch followed by the meeting. The next meeting will be August 14th.

JOE LEISZ-DISTRICT VP-CLEVELAND AREA

Chapter Members 464

National Only Members 546

AKRON CANTON DISTRICT

Chapter Members 197

National Only Members 217

CINCINNATI DISTRICT

Chapter Members 266

National Only Members 282



A Message From NARFE National President

William Shackelford

NARFE had the opportunity to participate in the 54th Annual Federally Employed Women (FEW) National Training Program in Ohio this July. Attending was our Director of Member Engagement, Nora MacDonald, who returned home energized to push ahead on recruitment, retention and support initiatives for members as well as chapter and federation leaders.

FEW, as a private, non-profit organization, works as an advocacy group to improve the status of women employed by the federal government. It is centrally focused on how to make a better government workforce for the future, using an approach to help federal employees advance their careers in training, diversity, compliance, and legislative efforts.

Nora engaged with staff from several government human resource departments who were recruiting in the exhibit hall, and she even helped several attendees join NARFE during the five-day training. Visit NARFE's LinkedIn and Facebook pages to see Nora exhibiting with Sandy Gartner, former president of the Ohio federation and meeting Shabiki Clarke, national vice president of congressional relations with FEW, and Calvin Stevens, president of NARFE chapter 380 in Dekalb County, GA.

"The FEW Conference was a terrific introduction for me into the current day issues that federal employees and retirees are facing," Nora said. "It was exciting to introduce NARFE to so many active employees and give attendees more information about the good work NARFE is doing to help them every day."

NARFE is continuing to collaborate on a deeper level with its local federations and chapters. Are you part of a federal employee association? Contact Nora at nmacdonald@narfe.org.

UPDATE FROM THE 54th Annual Federally Employed Women (FEW) National Training Program

I was honored to be able to attend this conference on July 9th and 10th and meet our new Director of Member Engagement, Nora MacDonald. There were over 700 attendees from all agencies within the government. Attendees were both active employees and retirees. I was especially happy to be able to speak about NARFE in one of the training sessions to over 50 members of their organization. I spoke about NARFE's mission and legislative agenda and the benefits of becoming a NARFE member. I also spoke about my 31 years as a government employee with DOD and how belonging to NARFE helped me to plan for my retirement. I told them about NARFE's benefit experts and the webinars that are available to them as members. I actually joined their organization while at the conference and hope to attend a meeting in Columbus where there are many federal agencies with employees who need to know the benefits of becoming NARFE members.

Sandy Gartner/Columbus Area DVP



Donation Totals to Alzheimer for FY 2023 (7-2022 to 5-2023) - Over this past time period members, chapters and the Ohio Federation have made donations to NARFE Alzheimer's Research.

The total for the FY 2023 (7-22 TO 5-23) was \$ 4,383.50

To make a donation please mail a check payable to NARFE Alzheimer's Research to:
Fran Leisz (NARFE Alzheimer's Federation Chairperson)
6410 Sunderland Drive, Parma OH 44129-4634

**WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S
TOGETHER WE CAN END ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE**

THIS IS WHY WE WALK

At the Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's®, we're fighting for a different future. For families facing the disease today. For more time. For treatments. We're closer than ever to stopping Alzheimer's. But to get there, we need you. Join us for the world's largest fundraiser to fight the disease.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Go to act.alz.org and find an event near you.

1. Register for your local walk-Start or join a team and invite other to walk with you.
2. Start fundraising and sharing-The Alzheimer's Association makes it easy with tools like Facebook Fundraisers, Walk mobile and more.
3. Join us on walk day-Come together for an inspiring community event that celebrates our commitment to ending the disease.

NARFE WEBINARS

NARFE provides expert guidance on federal benefits issues directly affecting current and former federal employees, as well as tips and tools to help ensure a safe and secure retirement for the federal community. Webinars are free to NARFE members and members have unlimited access to archived webinars.

We all know someone who is a current or retired federal employee. If their future security is tied to federal retirement benefits let them know they need to join NARFE.