

NARFE MIAMI VALLEY CHAPTER 1927
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NATIONAL ACTIVE & RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
DECEMBER 2024-JANUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER - CHAPTER 1927, MIAMI VALLEY CHAPTER

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www.NARFE.ORG/site/chapter1927

CHAPTER LUNCHEON MEETING

DATE: FRIDAY, 6 DECEMBER 2024 (free pie day!)

**PLACE: MCL CAFETERIA
4485 FAR HILLS `AVE
KETTERING, OHIO**

TIME: SOCIAL LUNCHEON STARTS AT 11:00

MCL provides a private dining room for free since most members buy lunch. After paying for lunch, proceed to the private dining room. Cafeteria personnel will help those needing assistance. **The business meeting will start at 11:30.**

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Al Griggs, Chapter Legislative Chair

The 2024 Presidential election is over! We now have a new President-Elect and a new Congress. The Republicans now have control of the Presidency and Senate. Control of the U.S. House of Representatives is still being decided.

The 118th Congress is now a lame duck congress. Therefore, we can't expect any actions on current legislation, due to the short amount of time the 118th Congress has left to be in session. The holidays and the formation of the 119th Congress shorten the time even more. So, the fight starts anew with the 119th

Congress in January 2025. All 18 NARFE related bills listed on the NARFE Bill Tracker in the November NARFE Magazine, Pages 14-17 and Schedule F are still in play. We must be vigilant and contact our Senators and Congressman via the NARFE Website as soon as the 119th Congress is gaveled in, in January 2025.

Please be aware of the Republican Study Committee's fiscal 2025 budget plan unveiled on March 25, 2024, Titled: "Fiscal Sanity to Save America." The intent of the proposal is to balance the budget within seven years by slashing \$17.1 Trillion in spending. This could be accomplished by significantly reducing federal

retirement and health care benefits while eliminating the president's authority to provide annual pay raises to federal employees.

Notably, the budget recommends reducing or eliminating cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) for Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS) and Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) annuities, eliminating the FERS annuity for new hires, and eliminating the FERS annuity supplement.

The budget also calls for using the chained Consumer Price Index to calculate COLAs for federal annuities and Social Security benefits. NARFE supports using the Consumer Price Index for Americans aged 62 or older (CPI-E) to better reflect rising living expenses faced by the aging community.

OPEN SEASON NARFE RESOURCES

By Brian Normile, Benefits Officer

The Federal Benefits Open Season is for enrollment in the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP), the Federal Flexible Spending Account Program (FSAFEDS), the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program (FEHB) and the Postal Service Health Benefits Program (PSHB). This year's Open Season runs from 11 November through 9 December. The NARFE Federal Benefits Institute's Open Season page (www.narfe.org/open-season/) is a one-stop shop for enrollment needs. The extensive resources include on-demand webinars, a NARFE statement regarding the need for health benefits enrollees to compare plans in view of the substantial increases in premiums, enrollment information, premium costs and plans/brochures. There are links to OPM's Open Season resources, including OPM's tool to compare plans, and information on the new Postal Service Health Benefits Program. The webinars include "FEHB Prescription Drug Plans", "How FEHB & Medicare Work Together", and "Medicare Advantage Plans (in FEHB and out of it)". Please refer any questions regarding this article to me at brianpnormile@aol.com or at (937) 426-2412.

HOPE HOTEL RECRUITMENT OPPORTUNITY

By Nick Steiner, Membership Chair

We were invited and attended the 2024 Blue Cross Blue Shield Pre-Open Season Health Benefits Fair on Tuesday, November 5th, 2024, at the Hope Hotel adjacent to Wright Patterson Air Force Base. Chapter members Sue Garcia, Mike Madges, Mike Ryan, and Nick Steiner recruited at this all-afternoon event. My

Upcoming Meetings – Chapter Meeting 11:00 a.m. Friday, 6 December; Board Meeting 11:00 a.m. Thursday, January 16th, 2024

Chapter meetings are open to everyone. Board meetings are open to all Chapter members.

SUPPORT CHAPTER 1927 - RENEW YOUR CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP!

VISIT OUR CHAPTER WEB SITE AT <http://www.narfe.org/site/chapter1927>

most sincere Thank YOU to them for their support and to Wava Iker, BC/BS representative, for inviting us. Numerous other organizations were also in attendance, e.g. Social Security Administration, which contributed to the number of people we were able to recruit to our table. We were able to receive 30 recruitment cards. We will have a drawing to determine one winner of a free, one-year NARFE membership from those filling out the cards.

NARFE OPEN SEASON EVENTS

Aetna Federal Plans representative Bud Jones will speak at a special Chapter 1927 meeting on Nov 21st at the MCL Cafeteria in Kettering from 11:00 am to 1:00. Bud will start after a brief business meeting at approximately noon.

Blue Cross/Blue Shields representative Wava Iker will speak at the Miami Valley Chapter meeting on December 6th at the MCL Cafeteria. Her presentation will start at noon. A free piece of pie will be available to all members and guests at our December 6th meeting.

OTHER AREA CHAPTERS

Greene County Chapter 2217 meetings are held at 1:00 pm on the 2nd Thursday of odd numbered months in the Lofino Plaza Meeting Room, 3868 Dayton Xenia Road. Their next meeting will be held on January 9th. The Chapter 2217 newsletters are available on the Miami Valley Chapter 1927 website at <https://www.narfe.org/chapter1927/>.

The Huber Heights Chapter 2238 holds chapter meetings at noon on the third Friday of every month, except for July and August, at various locations. Contact Chapter President Gordon Quinn at gordyq@aol.com - 937-813-2266 for locations.

All NARFE members and guests are welcome to attend area chapter meetings.

DECEMBER CHAPTER ELECTIONS

Our Miami Valley Chapter (Chapter 1927) elections will be addressed at our December 6th meeting. There is still time to express an interest in any of our elective positions to include Chapter President, Vice-President, Secretary or Treasurer. Interested Chapter members may contact either President, Mike Webb or Vice-President Mike Madges at the phone numbers listed in this newsletter. Officers serve a two-year term.