

**National Active & Retired Federal Employees
Chapter #331
York, Pennsylvania
Newsletter January/February 2020**

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Let me wish you a belated Happy New Year and welcome to the new decade of the 2020's! May the new year bring you good health, happiness, and warm relationships in the coming year.

I want to remind members that the meetings for January and February have been canceled. The membership voted to suspend meetings during these months due to historically low attendance and avoid the possibility of poor weather conditions during this time of year.

On a personnel note, my wife, Joanne, who helps me a lot with the newsletter, arranging programs for our meetings, and much of the NARFE computer work, is now in the York Hospital. What we first thought was a bad cold or "out-of-control" flu was later diagnosed as a heart-rhythm problem. Therefore, she has an illness much more serious than we thought at the onset. Many of you have interacted with her, if not at the meetings, then talking with her over the phone, correcting mailing lists, answering other NARFE related questions, etc. So, she will back away from these duties for what now appears to be some time.

This is not exactly NARF business, but an interesting article in the AARP December bulletin (page 11) caught my attention. The article advised older Americans (50+) that the National Park Service is proposing a plan to discontinue honoring the Lifetime Senior Pass during peak park use. The Park Service found that 30% of the visitors are 50+ years old. I am certain that many of NARFE chapter #331 members have purchased this lifetime pass. I am planning a vacation to Yellowstone with my grandson this August. Will August be "peak" park use time? What and when is "peak-park-use?" And when will my Lifetime Senior Pass not be honored?

These are questions we need to know to plan visits to National Parks, Historic Sites, Recreation areas, Monuments, Battlefields, and all other fee-use areas. Consider the following series of events: I receive a phone call or mail offering, for a small fee, a pass that would allow me to visit U.S. National Parks for free. I receive a card in the mail. I attempt to enter a National Park, but am told "I'm sorry sir, but the National Park Service will not honor this card." I realize that I have been scammed! I have been the victim of a criminal act.

Compare the previous set of events to the following: I purchase a Lifetime Senior Pass at a National Park visitor center from a uniformed National Park Service employee. I attempt to use my Lifetime Senior Pass to enter a national park, but am told "I'm sorry sir, but the National

Park Service will not honor this card.” I realize that I have been scammed! I have been the victim of a criminal act. These two scenarios are exactly alike, except in the second case the Federal Government agency (National Park Service) is guilty of committing a criminal act, to fraudulently renege on the use of the Lifetime Senior Pass program.

I wrote letters to the four congressmen representing our York area (house reps Perry and Smucker, and senators Casey and Toomey). I strongly urge other members affected by this plan to do likewise, asking them to investigate this matter and move to prevent this outlandish and unfair attack on the elderly. Washington, D.C. addresses:

The Honorable Pat Toomey
U.S. Senate
502 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-3802

The Honorable Robert Casey, Jr.
U.S. Senate
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-3804

The Honorable Scott Perry
U.S. House of Representatives
1207 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Lloyd Smucker
U.S. House of Representatives
127 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Jim Dine, President

CHAPTER MEETING/PROGRAM NEWS

No meeting in January or February.

Senate and Congressional Contacts

U.S. Senator Bob Casey: (717) 231-7540 (Harrisburg) or (202) 244-6324 (Washington, D.C.)

U.S. Senator Pat Toomey: (717) 782-3951 (Harrisburg) or (202) 224-4254 (Washington, D.C.)

Congressman Scott Perry: (717) 603-4980 (Harrisburg) or (202) 224-6324 (Washington, D.C.)

Congressman Lloyd Smucker: (717) 393-0667 (Lancaster) or 202-225-2411 (Washington, D.C.)

Chapter Officers

President: Jim Dine (717) 235-6129

Public Relations: Gene Kilgore (717) 862-3782

Service Officer: James Vasold (717) 332-2169

Sunshine (Sick & Shut-In): Sonia Grim (717) 244-9586

Legislative Chair: Charlene Laughman (717) 846-1007

Alzheimer Chair: Connie Loper

NARFE-PAC Chair: Vacant

Vice-President: Gene Kilgore (717) 862-3782

Secretary: Connie Loper (717) 244-7469

Membership Chair: Katina Snyder (717) 755-5896

Treasurer: James Vasold (717) 332-2169

Program Chair: Joanne Dine (717) 235-6129

Newsletter: Joanne Dine (717) 235-6129 or

Joanne19651@aol.com

