

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION



West Shore

Chapter 1465

www.narfe.org/site/chapter1465/

July 2020

Officers

President:

William Krouse
106 Bunker Hill Rd
New Cumberland, PA 17070
717-774-4031
billkrouse38@gmail.com

1st Vice President

Membership
Vacant

2nd Vice President

Legislation
Mary Howse
10 Bellwood Court
Carlisle, PA 17013
717-991-1422
mary.howse@gmail.com

Secretary & Travel

Linda Berkowitz
8 Cromwell Court
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050
717-360-4669
Lindaanddavieb@outlook.com

Treasurer

Thomas Gross
104 Melbourne Lane
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
717-620-8219
Tbg144@msn.com

ZOOM MEETING –July 8, 2020 – 11:45 AM

Participation Details Below

Speaker: Paul Bruno, Brookdale Grandon Farms Retirement

President's Message - Bill Krouse

As we have now completed another month of hunkering down, wearing a mask and keeping social distance due to COVID19, I would like to thank Governor Wolf and Dr Levine for leading Pennsylvania to a relatively successful approach to combatting the COVID19. We have fared better than many other states and I am thankful that a good portion of our local residents have taken their advice and continued common sense precautions to keep us safe. This won't last forever but we still have to be smart.

Some of the precautions have affected our programs. The VFW is still closed for banquet and other events due to COVID19. Thus, our meeting on July 8 will be via Zoom. If you would like to attend please contact me at billkrouse38@gmail.com or 717-774-4031. As noted above, our speaker is Paul Bruno from Brookdale Grandon Farms Retirement. Our speaker at our last meeting was David Bennett, who gave a very eloquent speech on "Public Service is an Honorable Profession." Our Executive Committee will be making a month-to-month decision on our meeting plans.

COVID19 has also cancelled other NARFE activities. The FEDCon20 originally scheduled for Aug 31-Sep 1 in Scottsdale AZ has been cancelled. The PA NARFE General Membership Meeting rescheduled to Sep 23 has also been cancelled. The Region II Training Academy rescheduled to Sep 23-24 in York has been postponed with a new date "to be determined." These were all prudent decisions to keep us safe.

In addition to being the West Shore NARFE President, I have taken on additional responsibilities at the NARFE PA Federation level. On July 1, I officially became the PA NARFE 1st VP in charge of membership and the District VP for the 10th Congressional District. Thank you for your support. I hope I will be able to extend NARFE's influence with our legislative leaders and build up membership in our chapter and around the state to further the NARFE's mission.

In August the National Level NARFE will be having an election for the National Secretary-Treasurer and voting on various bylaw amendments. The June/July issue of the NARFE magazine has details (Page 48) but there is more information on the NARFE website <http://narfe.org>. You must be logged in to NARFE to see Election Information. There will be a hard copy ballot in the August magazine, plus if you have an email registered in NARFE you should get an electronic ballot. If you can't log into the NARFE website, contact me. I can either email you the complete 37-page descriptions of the bylaw amendments or mail you the 4- page summary.

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

Committee Chairs

**Alzheimer's
Vacant**

Chaplain

Thomas Gross
104 Melbourne Lane
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
717-620-6219

Tbg144@msn.com

Hospitality

Bill Henne
2906 Harvard St.
Camp Hill, PA 17011
717-737-1486

billhenne2@gmail.com

Newsletter

Mary Ann Hatcher
107 Ridgewood Dr.
Camp Hill, PA 17011
717-975-1876

zerbehatcher@verizon.net

Programs

Judith Hughes
234 Green St.
Shiremanstown, PA 17011
717-737-8584

Marlene Loser
423 Susan Drive
Harrisburg, PA 17109
marielos@aol.com

Sergeant at Arms

David Berkowitz
8 Cromwell Court
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050
lindaanddaveb@outlook.com

Vice President, Legislation – Mary Howse

Spotlight US Postal Service Legislation: USPS Fairness Act and Postal Preservation Act

Fact: The US Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.

Fact: The 2006 Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act requires the USPS to pre-fund future retiree health benefits, a mandate to fund a 75-year obligation in only 10 years. This pre-funding has accounted for approximately 90 percent of the USPS's net losses. No other agency or corporation is required to pre-fund future retiree health benefits

On February 5, 2020, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 2382, the USPS Fairness Act, by a large majority vote of 309-106, with 15 members not recording votes. This marks the first time Congress has passed meaningful postal legislation since 2006. H.R. 2382 eliminates the controversial pre-funding mandate in the 2006 PAEA. With an estimated \$50 billion currently pre-funded, the Postal Service has more than enough money set aside to meet future and current needs until roughly 2030.

The passage of H.R. 2382, with 309 bipartisan supporters, is a first step toward relieving a huge financial burden placed on the USPS. Its sponsor, Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR), stated "The unreasonable pre-funding mandate has threatened the survival of the USPS and placed its vital services for the millions who rely on it at risk. The pre-funding mandate policy is based on the absurd notion of paying for the retirement funds of people who do not yet, and may not ever, work for the Postal Service." H.R. 2382 does have a companion bill in the Senate, S. 2965 that was introduced in December by Senators. Steve Daines (R-MT) and Brian Schatz (D-HI). If S. 2965 is passed by the Senate and signed into law, the Postal Service would change to a model similar to other federal agencies and businesses that fund their retirement benefits as they go.

On May 26, Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), Rep. Peter King (R-NY), and Rep. Gerald Connolly (D-VA), introduced the Postal Preservation Act, H.R. 7015. The coronavirus crisis is wreaking havoc on the USPS. Without immediate help from Congress and the Administration, the USPS—a vital staple of American society since 1775—could cease to function by the end of this fiscal year. This is a national emergency that Congress must address. The USPS is a fundamental component of America's economic infrastructure, providing affordable, universal delivery of mail and e-commerce packages to more than 160 million households and businesses. The Postal Preservation Act will make an emergency appropriation to the USPS of \$25 billion—a request that is supported by the bipartisan Postal Service Board of Governors appointed by President Trump; and require appropriate oversight of that funding by the USPS Inspector General.

Call to action: Contact our members of Congress to thank everyone who passed H.R. 2382, the House version of the USPS Fairness Act, to support S.2965, the Senate version of the USPS Fairness Act; and support the Postal Preservation Act, H.R. 7015.

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

Service Officer & PR

William Krouse
106 Bunker Hill Road
New Cumberland, PA 17070
717-774-4031
Billkrouse38@gmail.com

Sunshine

Marie Brookes
5380 Joshua Road
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050
717-737-9850
mariebrookes@comcast.net

Congress Senators

Robert P. Casey, Jr. (D-PA)
393 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-6324
Toll Free: 866-802-2833
FAX: 202-228-0604
www.casey.senate.gov/contact/

22 S. Third St., Suite 6A
Harrisburg, PA 17101
717-231-7540
Toll Free: 866-461-9159
FAX: 717-231-7542

Patrick J. Toomey (R-PA)
248 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

320 Market Street, Suite 475E
Harrisburg, PA 17101
717-782-3951
FAX 717-782-4920

Representative

Scott G. Perry (R-PA)
1207 Longworth House Office
Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-5836
FAX 202-226-1000
Hours: 9:00-5:00

Service Officer – Bill Krouse

With many person-to-person activities cancelled, more and more people are turning to electronics to get their news and to get in touch with other people. Please beware, “Spammers” are not taking a COVID19 holiday, they are out in force. Don’t blindly click on links or answer strange calls.

Chaplain – Tom Gross

The Guilt Trip

I had not really planned on taking a trip this time of year and yet I found myself packing rather hurriedly. This trip was going to be unpleasant and I knew in advance that no good would come of it. I’m talking about my annual “Guilt Trip.”

I got tickets to fly there on “WISHIHAD” airlines. It was an extremely short flight. I got my baggage, which I could not check. I chose to carry it myself all the way. It was weighted down with a thousand memories of what might have been and what I shouldn’t have done. No one greeted me as I entered the terminal to the Regret City International Airport. I say international because people from all over the world come to this dismal town.

As I checked into the Last Resort Hotel, I noticed that they would be hosting the year’s most important event, the Annual Pity Party. I wasn’t going to miss that great social occasion. Many of the town’s leading citizens would be there. First, there would be the Done family, you know, Should Have, Would Have and Could Have. Then would come Ms. I’m So Ashamed and her twin brother, I Can Never Forgive Myself.

The biggest family would be the Yesterdays. There are far too many of them to count, but each one would have a very sad story to share. And It’s Their Fault would regale us with stories (excuses) about how things had failed in his life, and each story would be loudly applauded by Don’t Blame Me and I Couldn’t Help It. Well, to make a long story short, I went to this depressing party knowing that there would be no real benefit in doing so. And, as, usual, I became very depressed.

But as I thought about all of the stories of failures brought back from the past, it occurred to me that all of this trip and subsequent “pity party” could be cancelled – by God! I started to truly realize that I did not have to be there. I didn’t have to be discouraged or ashamed. One thing kept going through my mind: **I CAN’T CHANGE YESTERDAY, BUT GOD HAS THE POWER TO MAKE TODAY A NEW DAY.** I can be happy, joyous, fulfilled, encouraged, as well as encouraging.

Knowing this, I left the City of Regret immediately and left no forwarding address. Am I sorry for mistakes I’ve made in the past? YES! But they’ve been cancelled, forgiven! So, if you’re planning a trip back to the City of Regret, please cancel all your reservations now. Instead, take a trip to a place called Starting Anew. I liked it so much that I have now taken up permanent residence there. My neighbors, the For Givens and the New Starts are so very helpful. By the way, you don’t have to carry around heavy baggage – the load is lifted from your shoulders upon arrival.

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

Treasurer – Tom Gross

Checkbook Beginning as of 6/27 \$ 4,545.99
Shares//Money Market Balances 6,069.36
Total Balance \$10,615.35

Sunshine – Marie Brookes

Sympathy Card sent to the family of:
Member, Richard Selby

NARFE 1465

106 Bunker Hill Rd.
New Cumberland, PA 17070
Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage Paid
Harrisburg, PA
Permit No. 106

Travel – Linda Berkowitz

No updates available at this time.

