



**FEDERAL BENEFITS EXPERTS**

**JOHNSTOWN  
PENNSYLVANIA**

**CHAPTER 1130**

Vol. 30 No.4

August 19, 2020

**National Active and Retired  
Federal Employees Association  
Chapter 1130**

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**441 Theatre Drive, Johnstown**

**Chapter 1130 Meeting**

**Wednesday August 19, 2020  
11:30 A.M.**

**August Meeting Political Forum**

Representatives from the Cambria County Democrat and Republican Committees have been invited to speak to our group about their candidates for the upcoming November election.

**Upcoming Federation Activities**

PA Federation and Region II Events:  
PA General Membership Meeting, September 22, 2020, cancelled.  
New date to be announced.  
Region II Training Academy Postponed until March 15-16, 2021  
York, PA

To receive this newsletter electronically (as well as in hardcopy), please email  
Judy: [jinboden@atlanticbb.net](mailto:jinboden@atlanticbb.net) or Sue: [snew15956@comcast.net](mailto:snew15956@comcast.net).

## Note from the President

I hope this newsletter finds everyone safe and healthy! Wilma and I are both doing well. It is unfortunate that we had to forego the summer picnic this year, but we are really excited to see everyone who can make it to the August luncheon meeting at Hoss's. If you haven't been dining out here yet, please be assured that they are keeping things very clean and there is plenty of room for social distancing. They have disposable plastic gloves for the salad bar and you will need to wear your face mask at the salad bar. You can also order off the menu, if you choose not to visit the salad bar. This will be the first traditional meeting we have held this year and it will be good to get back to our regular schedule and see all of your smiling faces!

I do want to bring a serious matter to your attention. We've had several officers and at least one member (non-officer) indicate that they have received either emails or a mailed letter purporting to be from one of our Chapter's officers. The initial email contact was very innocuous. It may say something like, "Hey, how are you today?" if you responded, you would receive another email, giving a sob story and asking for money or gift cards. Naturally, none of our officers will ever ask you for money or gift cards for any reason. We have heard that other NARFE Chapters have experienced this type of scheme, as well. This is a very common way that scammers use legitimate organizations to convince you to send them money or gift cards. You can help us out by letting us know if you have received anything like this with any connection to our chapter, so we can determine where they may be getting our information as well as alert the rest of the membership regarding what to look out for.

We are planning to have representatives from both the Democrat and Republican Parties at our August meeting to talk about their candidates for the upcoming November election. We hope you can make it! Remember if you're not yet registered to vote in Pennsylvania, please do so before October 19th, so you can participate in the November election. [www.votespa.com](http://www.votespa.com)

## From Larry Palecek, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and Membership Chair:

Our state is "green" again and we can venture further out into society. Be smart, be cautious, stay safe and healthy. I hope the time will be short when we can hold more meetings again and feel relieved that the virus is coming to an end. There are many actions a NARFE member can still take during this pandemic. With August being Grass Roots month, we should contact our local legislative offices with NARFE's concerns (WEP, GPO, Postal Reform, low 1% pay raise, etc.), or send an email to your legislator through [narfe.org](http://narfe.org). Check on your fellow NARFE members, see how they are doing, remind them to keep up with NARFE activities, and stay a member.

### NARFE National Voting:

August is the month for our NARFE National Elections. A Ballot card is in the August magazine and you can choose to mail in your ballot or vote online. Voting will commence July 20, 2020 and run throughout the month of August. The only National contested race is for the National Secretary/Treasurer. The incumbent, Kathryn Hensley is being challenged by Cindy Renee Blythe, Region V Vice President. Their statements are in the March 2020 issue of the *narfe* magazine. The three pages immediately following the ballot card are the Bylaws Amendments and resolutions with an explanation of each. This is a lot of reading but please try to determine your accept/reject choice. The Bylaws Review Committee (BRC) recommendations "approve or reject" are stated. Please vote in this August NARFE election. The following are two of the amendments that would affect you and our Federation. .

### **Dues Increase Amendment B-2020-**

From NARFE HQ: "In the past decade, NARFE has created opportunities that add substantial value for individual members, worked to reshape the perception of the importance of federal workers, and had a significant positive impact on legislation that affects the federal community. In that time, NARFE has worked hard to create value without increasing member dues. But we have reached the point where we will need to ask our members to pay a little more to fulfill our mission and continue to serve all our members."

B 20-20 states "Based on an analysis by the NARFE Membership Advisory Committee, an increase in annual dues from \$40.00 to \$48.00 has been proposed to generate additional operating revenue for NARFE." (BRC recommends adoption.) I personally have no recommendations as further financial support to NARFE is your call.

### **Cut Federation Funds B-2021-**

Of concern to the PA Federation is amendment B-2021, Federation Payments. The effect would be to cut federation funds from 10% to 5%. 10% funds are the source of operating funds for federations, many of which are already struggling due to loss of members. This will severely limit federations' abilities to serve chapter and national-only members in their federations. The Pennsylvania Federation, BRC, and I recommend rejecting this amendment.

As to **selecting the National Secretary/Treasurer**, the PA Federation and I recommend the incumbent Kathryn Hensley.

Kathryn has been a good friend to the PA Federation and has provided much guidance in developing our One Member One Vote rules. Kathryn also approved seven PA chapters' revised bylaws on June 30, 2020, and always responds to our emails with great detail. Kathryn is a hard-working officer for NARFE.

**From Douglas Dettling, 2nd Vice President**

There is a bill before Congress that NARFE opposes. It is the Taxpayers and Savers Protection act, or TSP. It is both HR 6614 and S 2791. The bill would remove Chinese companies from the thrift savings plan international fund. This would politicize the TSP and put investors at a disadvantage compared to private sector retirement funds. A Mutual funds' sole purpose should be to maximize the investment of shareholders. They should not be used as a political tool. China has the second largest economy in the world and it has grown by leaps and bounds for several decades. Eliminating Chinese companies from your savings plan has the potential to significantly reduce earnings of members.

This year NARFE's legislative priorities focus on the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and support for more accurate cost-of-living adjustments for seniors. The WEP reduces the Social Security benefits of local, state and federal retirees who worked in private sector jobs covered by Social Security and also receive government pensions from government employment not covered by SS. NARFE supports two bills. The first is HR 4540 which gives eligible Social Security beneficiaries a \$150 rebate per month but does not give a spousal benefit. HR 3934/S 3401 would provide a \$100 rebate per month for beneficiaries plus a \$50 rebate for spouses. There's another bill NARFE supports in Congress; the Social Security Fairness Act, HR 141, which would repeal the WEP and the Government Pension Offset (GPO).

NARFE also supports The Fair COLA for Seniors Act, HR 1553. Under this act COLAs would be calculated using the CPI for the Elderly, which better accounts for senior spending habits, especially on medicine, health care, shelter and related costs rather than the cola used now, the CPI for Urban Wage and Clerical Workers.

Please let your senators and congressmen know how you feel about these proposed bills.

On another note, as you know I do drivers education classes for AARP. There were several people that had wanted to take the eight hour course which I was hoping to do and have not been able to schedule. I've been told now that all courses for 2020 have been canceled due to COVID-19. I do not know when in 2021 classes will resume. Therefore, if you need to, I would suggest that you consider taking the AARP online driver safety course. The only disadvantage to this is that there is a test at the end of the course. However, when you successfully you complete the course you should get a reduction in your auto insurance of at least 5% if you live in PA.

To access the course, go to The AARP website. Access the menu, click on auto. At the top left you should see a field for driver safety. Click on that to take the test. Right now there is a five dollar discount for taking a test online. If you have any problems you can reach me at [ddett@aol.com](mailto:ddett@aol.com).

**From Judy Palecek, Chapter Secretary**

Chapter Bylaws Update – On June 30, 2020, I received a letter from National Secretary/Treasurer Kathryn Hensley part of which states “We have carefully reviewed your revised bylaws Johnstown Chapter 1130 and they are hereby approved. We have a copy on file here at NARFE Headquarters and are returning a copy to you for your files.”

The bylaws committee thanks those members involved in revising the bylaws and the chapter members for approving them. Copies of the bylaws will be available at our future meetings and by email. The next step will be to take the procedural parts of the original charter and bylaws and merge them into the standing rules. This will then become the chapter's guidebook.

**From Joe Antal, Legislative Advisor**

Quote: “Bad officials are elected by good citizens who do not vote.” George Jean Nathan, American drama critic

**Happy Birthday to You**



JULY BIRTHDAYS		AUGUST BIRTHDAYS	
Michael Waltz	7/15	Francis Pat Petrell	8/19
Lois Lienhardt	7/18		
Barbara Nibert	7/25		
Margaret Chynoweth	7/27		

**If your birthday is missing, please contact Linda Kapustka, so she can add you to the list!**



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JOHNSTOWN  
PENNSYLVANIA

CHAPTER 1130

NARFE Chapter 1130 – P.O. Box 45.  
Enon Valley, PA 16120-0045

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**2020 Chapter Activities**

MEETING DATE	PROGRAM	NEWSLETTER
August 19	Luncheon Meeting – Political Candidates Program	Publish
September 16	Luncheon Meeting – Non Profit Program	Publish
October 21	Luncheon Meeting – Aetna Insurance	Publish
November 18	Luncheon Meeting – Open Season, Chapter Elections	Publish
December 16	Christmas Luncheon Meeting – Perkins Party Room	Publish

**Once you're done reading this newsletter, please pass it along to a new potential member!**

**We are NARFE Johnstown Chapter 1130. Your Close- to- Home Membership - \$40\*.**

The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association is the **only** membership organization solely dedicated to **protecting and preserving the benefits of all federal workers and retirees**. NARFE is your legislative voice and your information resource. Receive *narfe* magazine each month; attend meetings, often with invited speakers; network and get involved in grass-roots lobbying efforts.

**\* First-year dues. Subsequent years \$40 plus local chapter dues. Contact the Membership Chairperson, Larry Palecek, at [larry1130@verizon.net](mailto:larry1130@verizon.net) or (814) 472-9065 for more information or to obtain a membership application. We hope to see you at the next meeting!**