

From Larry Palecek, Federation Immediate Past President, and Acting CD15 DVP

I always thought when Labor Day came around the rest of the year disappears in a hurry. It's October, sometimes feels like November, trees are changing colors fast, and our pandemic future is still uncertain. This is also the time of year we look over our FEHB plan and wonder what the upcoming costs will be. As of this writing, I have not seen any statements from OPM on average increases/decreases? or provider's 2021 costs. The dates of the open season are November 9 – December 14, 2020. NARFE Headquarters is also awaiting the FEHB changes from OPM and NARFE will announce them online and in the next issue of the NARFE magazine. There are two articles in the October NARFE magazine relating to Open Season that are well worth reading. Hopefully, by the time this newsletter arrives in your mailbox, we will have the 2021 FEHB costs from OPM. Also, in October is the release of the final COLA percentages for 2021. Right now we are in the plus column, will it stay that way?

I am also serving as the District Vice President for Congressional District 15. This is one of the three "mega" districts in Pennsylvania. Unfortunately for the size of the district we only have three chapters. Kinzua-Warren Chapter 1778 was closed earlier this year. My own chapter, Johnstown 1130, is divided between PA13 and PA15. Indiana 2124 and McKean County 1782 are the other two chapters in the district. Once the 2020 census gets straightened out maybe we will all have different districts and numbers.

Johnstown has been holding monthly regular membership meetings at the local Hoss's since August. In July we held a board meeting at Hoss's to evaluate if their health and safety precautions would meet our needs. Hoss's does a good job on health safety. The staff all wear face shields or masks, gloves and masks are required for each visit to the salad bar, which Hoss's supplies, and seating is spaced out. As expected, attendance is low, about 11 members per meeting. Ironically different members show up at the meetings.

Our 2nd VP/Legislative Chair, Douglas Dittling, visited the Somerset office of Congressman Dr. John Joyce, PA13, and had to settle for a talk with a staff member outside the office. He provided the staffer with NARFE legislative concerns and asked for the Congressman's support.

Hopefully, in the not too distant future, I can get to meet with the other district chapters and report on their activities. In the meantime, as this virus seems to be reemerging, stay healthy and safe.

From Brian Finn, Federation NARFE-PAC Coordinator:

Many PA Congressional candidates have received NARFE PAC money for the upcoming election from Headquarters since August 1, 2020. The candidates include; Madeleine Dean, Connor Lamb, Susan Wild, Brendan Boyle, Chrissy Houlahan, Eugene DePasquale, and Michael Doyle. All received at least \$1,000. They received disbursements after it was determined that they agree with NARFE positions on key legislative issues.

From Dr. Gary Roundtree, President Maryland Federation:

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In This Issue

[OPM Provides More Details on FEHB Changes for 2021](#)

The Office of Personnel Management issued further details on healthcare plans for 2021 — in addition to its premium rates announcement made earlier this month

SEE ALSO: **[2021 FEHB Premium Rate Charts Now Available](#)**