

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION



West Shore

Chapter 1465

www.narfe.org/site/chapter1465/

April 2021

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Treasurer

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ZOOM MEETING – April 14, 2021 – 12:30 pm

Participation Details Below

Speaker: Don Carl, “Central PA Food Bank”

President’s Message – Bill Krouse

Tonight, as I write this article, I am happy to report that I had my second Covid-19 vaccine this morning. So far only mild discomfort at the injection site. I felt nothing on the first shot. It appears I am not alone. My daughter works for the Virginia Department of Health. She has been busy lately setting up numerous vaccination sites in VA. She says that many of the older people have less reactions than the younger generations. Is that because the older immune systems are less potent? Whatever the reason, I will take it.

It had been a struggle to get the appointments but appointments are opening up. Every day on the news I hear of more ways to schedule, including via phone for those people who don’t have access to the internet. I strongly encourage everyone to schedule and get your shots. The latest two phone numbers I’ve seen for scheduling are 717-918-9880 Monday through Saturday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm for Cumberland County residents and 855-851-3641 for Wellspan in York, Adams, Franklin, Lancaster and Lebanon counties.

Jill Lazar spoke at our March meeting on Funeral Pre-planning “Getting Your Ducks in a Row.” It was a very informative presentation and she provided a handout sent out to attendees after the meeting. If you would like a copy of it, let me know. Our speaker on April 14 is Don Carl from the Central PA Food Bank. The meeting will be on zoom. Please contact me if you would like a link to the meeting. I will send out the link to everyone that has an email address in NARFE. For those with a computer, I-pad, smart phone, etc. you should be able to just click the link to enter the meeting. If you dial in from a phone you will have to call 646 558 8656, enter a meeting number: 838 5375 3827, and password: 1465. On April 14, our Executive Committee will meet at 11:30, and our regular meeting with the speaker will start at 12:30.

NARFE National has been struggling with how to celebrate NARFE’s 100 Anniversary in 2021. COVID-19 has not made it easy. The latest news (with details coming soon) is that both the Centennial Gala celebration (June 21) and the LEGcon21 (Legislative training session) on June 21-23 will be done virtually. Stay tuned for more information.

continued

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Committee Chairs

**Alzheimer's
Vacant**

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**Sergeant at Arms
Vacant**

Obviously, by having a virtual conference, we lose the personal touch and the comradery, but it does give people who can't get around as much anymore the chance to participate.

Finally, thinking about the 100th Anniversary of NARFE, got me thinking about our own chapter's anniversary. Our chapter was founded on January 15, 1976, with 67 members. So, this past January was our 45th Anniversary. It passed without mention but it shouldn't have. I also found out today that one of our past members was a PA Federation President (John H. McCabe from 1979-1981). Maybe we need to schedule the celebration later this year when we get back to normal (whatever that is). Thoughts on how to celebrate are welcome.

Vice President, Legislation – Mary Howse

Busting the Myth that Federal Employees Are Overpaid

With the change of administration priorities, the funding for the American Relief Act, and the initiative for a multitrillion dollar infrastructure program, some members of Congress may once again take a cue from their constituents to cut Big Government. But what does the American public know about the people who carry out the day-to-day functions of their government? A number of compensation myths persist about the federal workforce, and you can help by dispelling myths with facts.

Myth: Federal employees earn substantially more than private sector employees.

False: In 2019, the private sector American Transparency group declared, "There is a new federal minimum wage: of 78 federal agencies, the average wage was over \$100,000."

This assertion is an example of cherry picking the facts. There are over 456 (not 78) federal agencies and organizations that have an estimated 2.1 million employees. According to the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) in a 2019 report, the Average Annual Base Salary (adjusted to include locality pay) for Full Time Permanent federal employees was \$87,312 per year at the time of the report.

Why does this federal salary average appear to be so high? Organizations that are quick to point out the cost of federal employees often overlook that:

- the federal government employs relatively few part-time employees;
- most of the federal employees tend to be older, more educated, and more specialized than their private sector equivalents;
- Federal employees with high school diplomas earn more; those with advanced degrees earn less.

For example, the Securities and Exchange Commission has 2581 employees that earn an average of \$197,000. On the lower end, the Department of Agriculture's average salary is estimated at \$68,000.

Federal pay systems are designed to adhere to the concept of equal pay for equal work, or work of equal value. The intent is to pay everyone who does the same job the same salary regardless of race, gender, age, religion, political belief, and others. To rise to this standard, the federal government must have increased funding. An example of the Fed's success is gender pay equity. While not perfectly implemented,

continued

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the federal pay system does a far better job of avoiding gender discrimination than its private-sector counterpart. In the private sector, for every dollar a man makes, a woman makes 82 cents doing the same job, adjusted for occupation and education. A similar study in the federal government shows that its gender gap is much smaller at 93 cents for every dollar.

What does that gender pay gap translate into? For every \$50,000 earned by men, women in the private sector are paid \$41,000, and women in the federal sector are paid \$46,500. The gender pay gap shouldn't exist at all, but these numbers show the federal pay systems are far superior to those in the private sector when it comes to preventing pay discrimination. Having federal pay equity insures a more secure retirement with a greater opportunity to invest in the TSP, and higher Social Security and annuity (via high 3 calculations).

Chaplain – Tom Gross

Is this what we have to look forward to?

The Danger of Attending a 60th Class Reunion

He was widower and she a widow. They had known each other for a number of years, having been high school classmates and having attended class reunions in the past, without fail.

At their 60th high school reunion, the widower and the widow made a foursome with two other singles. They had a wonderful evening, their spirits high, with the widower throwing admiring glances across the table and the widow smiling coyly back at him.

Finally, during one dance, he picked up courage to ask her. "Will you marry me?" After about six seconds she answered, "Yes... yes I will!" The evening ended on a happy note for the widower. However, the next morning he was troubled. Did she say yes or did she say no? He couldn't remember. His mind went blank. With fear and worry, he picked up the phone and called her. He explained that he couldn't remember as well as he used to. As he gained the courage, he inquired of her. "When I asked you to marry me, did you say yes or no?"

She replied I said "Yes, Yes I will and I meant it with all my heart!" The widower was delighted. He felt his heart skip a beat. Then she continued, "And I'm so glad you called, because I couldn't remember who asked me."

I hope you enjoyed this story. Sometimes we need a laugh or a short story to realize that we not alone. God is with us at all times. As we grow older, He will guide us to enjoy each day – one day at a time.

May God continue to bless you – each and every day.

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

Treasurer – Tom Gross

Checking Account as of March 30, 2021 \$ 4,331.49
Savings/Money Market \$ 6,077.19
Total \$ 10,408.68

Happy Passover

Easter Blessings

NARFE 1465

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Address Service Requested

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Sunshine – Marie Brookes

February:

Sympathy cards sent to:

- Member William J. Bowers for death of his brother (we don't have a name)
- Kathleen Huffer for death of her husband, Member, James L. Huffer

March:

Sympathy card sent to:

- Member Richard Carlson for death of his wife, Alfreda Carlson

Get Well cards sent to:

- Donna Daubert
- Marlene Loser