



NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES  
 Alvin G. Bohley Chapter 1019  
 Belleville, Illinois

Newsletter  
 Volume 32 - Number 1, Spring 2021

Position	First Name	Last Name	Start Date	Phone
President	James	Haley	01/01/2021	618-795-5174
1st Vice President	Sydney Ann	Hagen	01/01/2021	618-632-6478
2nd Vice President	Steve	Koluch	01/01/2021	618-530-5563
Secretary	Kathy	Despain-Rogers	01/19/2014	618-624-8031
Treasurer	Patricia	Ramatowski	12/30/2013	618-345-3414
Legislative Chair (National)	Michael	Flahive	03/17/2021	618-622-0428
Legislative Chair (State)	Michael	Flahive	03/17/2021	618-622-0428
Membership Chair	Diane	Ambuehl	04/02/2018	618-660-6974
Membership Retention Chair	Barbara	Bodnar	04/02/2018	618-566-4548
Public Relations Officer/Chair	Velma	Brokering	09/04/2017	618-588-4105
Service Officer	Dean	Hemmer	01/23/2017	618-233-3819
Editor	Sabia	Hinkle	05/01/2013	618-660-8509
Alzheimer Chair	Kathy	Despain-Rogers	01/07/2020	618-624-8031
NARFE-PAC Chair	Steve	Koluch	01/01/2021	618-530-5563
Network Coordinator	Steve	Koluch	01/01/2021	618-530-5563

**CHAPTER 1019 MEETING SCHEDULE:**

General membership meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month except May and December at Golden Corral, 3360 Green Mount Crossing Rd, Shiloh IL. Lunch is at 11:00 a.m. and the meeting starts at noon. You do not have to eat lunch to attend the meeting. May and December meetings are noted in the semiannual newsletters where special reservations have to be made. **See attached flyer for details about Outdoor Luncheon/Social on May 12, 2021.**

Due to COVID-19, we have been doing monthly chapter meetings via Zoom. Please send an email to [jbflat2021@gmail.com](mailto:jbflat2021@gmail.com) for the link to be invited to each Zoom meeting. We welcome everyone to join us on Zoom. We hope to resume in-person meetings at the Golden Corral this summer.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT: JAMES HALEY**

I hope and pray that we get through this COVID-19 pandemic in one piece. I also hope that you (that is those who wanted to) have your vaccines. I got my second shot March 1, 2021. It hurt my arm a little more than the first, but other than that no complaints.

So, let me tell you a little bit about myself. I was born in Wichita, Kansas, but raised in the Washington DC metropolitan area (mainly in Virginia). I grew up playing with congressmen's kids. 😊

I served in the government for 38 years. My first job was in the USAF. I was an aircraft maintenance specialist (Crew Chief) and worked on B-52 bombers and KC-135 Tanker (air refuelers) serving during the Vietnam War era.

I had a break from the government for about 4 months. During that time I tried to paint for a living. Thank God that never worked out.

My second job in the government was as an animal caretaker for the United States Department of Agriculture. I worked with beef cattle in ruminant nutrition research -- kind of like a lab tech on large animals.

My third job in the government was working as a computer specialist for the United States Department of the Army. My main job was information management writing computer programs in many different types of languages. I also taught classes on how to use different types of software. I finished my career as a computer program analyst team leader.

I joined NARFE June 22, 2006 and retired from the government in 2010.

As your new president I hope to serve you well.



**NARFE CELEBRATES 100 YEARS:** The party starts with the cover story in the January/February 2021 issue of *NARFE* magazine, with a look back at NARFE's humble beginnings as an organization founded to protect the benefits offered by the then-new Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS). If you are not familiar with the history of Civil Service, this is a very informative article and well worth taking the time to read.

Throughout the year, NARFE will be sharing content on social media, in the magazine, and on the new website with highlights of NARFE's accomplishments over the years. NARFE Centennial souvenirs can be purchased at NARFE's online store: [www.narfe.org/shopnarfe](http://www.narfe.org/shopnarfe).

NARFE has also launched phase one of a three-part website redesign. At the beginning of January, the new NARFE website had a "soft launch" debuting a great new look with easier access to more resources. The website is simpler to navigate with visual links to relevant information. The new chapter locator helps potential members connect with NARFE chapters

near them. A new search function lets users pinpoint the pages they need. The new responsive design is the right-size for any screen you use, including phones and tablets. Visitors can easily view videos, on any device, from our extensive library of webinars. The “Contact Us” form helps members send email to the appropriate Headquarters department. ·

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:**

Our chapter welcomes the following new members: Thomas Partelow and Patricia Parker.

**ALZHEIMER’S UPDATE: KATHY DESPAIN-ROGERS:** This is to say "Thank You" to everyone who participated in our Alzheimer’s Research Fund Drive. Our chapter collected and sent \$484.00. Thanks so much to everyone who contributed. Much is being learned about the disease and no one knows when we will find the cure, but research will have it. It's just a matter of time. Thanks, again, for your contribution!

**SERVICE CENTER ASSISTANCE** is available by calling one of the following members: Dean Hemmer, (618) 233-3819, or Gene Wiggins, (618) 566-7980.

**LEGISLATIVE: DEAN HEMMER**

The January/February 2021 *NARFE* magazine did not list the bill tracker. This is because following a National election bill tracking is deleted. Bills must be reintroduced for consideration. Rep Rodney Davis, R-IL, reintroduced the latest iteration of legislation to repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO). Early in 2020 three bills were proposed concerning this subject. These provisions, which affect over 2.5 million people nationwide, cut the earned Social Security benefits of federal retirees and their surviving spouses. The Social Security Fairness Act, [H.R. 82](#), would fully repeal both provisions.

**NARFE POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (PAC): STEVE KOLUCH**

March is NARFE-PAC month. The funds raised will ensure that NARFE members and staff are able to advocate NARFE’s message and connect with lawmakers early on in the 2021-2022 cycle. There is more information about NARFE-PAC in each issue of *NARFE* magazine.

Members can make a one-time contribution, or sign-up to become a NARFE-PAC Sustainer, by contributing online: (<https://members.narfe.org/Support-NARFE>); by mail using the form on page 9 of the March 2021 issue of *NARFE* magazine, or by calling NARFE’s advocacy department at 1-800-456-8410.

**CHAPTER 1019 WEBSITE: STEVE KOLUCH**

For the most current information about our upcoming chapter meetings, visit our chapter website at: <https://www.narfe.org/site/chapter1019/>. Please send updates or questions to [koluch.s@gmail.com](mailto:koluch.s@gmail.com).

**MEMBERSHIP NEWS: DIANE AMBUEHL**

Total members as of Feb 28, 2021: 259

**DECEASED MEMBERS SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER:**

John Accornero, Donald Benton, Sylvia Boxdorfer, Edwin Buescher, Bette Ann Ellet, Arlene Hunt, June Romano

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS:**

- April 14 – Chapter Zoom meeting at 11:00 a.m. (Watch your email for Zoom invite)
- May 12 – Chapter outdoor luncheon/social at 11:00 a.m. (**see attached flyer for details**)
- June 9 – Chapter meeting at 11:00 a.m. (**tentative** - at Golden Corral)
- July 14 – Chapter meeting at 11:00 a.m. (**tentative** - at Golden Corral)
- August 11 – Chapter meeting at 11:00 a.m. (**tentative** – at Golden Corral)
- September 8 – Chapter meeting at 11:00 a.m. (**tentative** – at Golden Corral)
- October 13 – Chapter meeting at 11:00 a.m. (**tentative** – at Golden Corral)



**Our Customary Winter Banquet** is tentatively being planned for Wednesday, December 8, 2021, at the Bellecourt Place, 120 N. Jackson Street, Belleville IL. We hope to finally gather and enjoy a delicious meal with our members, spouses, and friends, followed by entertainment and beautiful holiday attendance prizes.

**Coping with Stress during COVID-19**

For many of us, COVID-19 has disrupted our routines and made everyday activities, such as work and caring for loved ones, challenging. We have missed family holiday gatherings, loss of loved ones and not being with them during their final hours, job loss impacting our families, and the list goes on and on.

There are several great tips for coping with stress and supporting others during COVID and other types of natural disasters and emergencies on the American Red Cross website. The link is: [www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/coronavirus-safety/coping-with-stress-during-covid-19.html](http://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/coronavirus-safety/coping-with-stress-during-covid-19.html).

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** On behalf of Chapter 1019, I wish to welcome our new President, James Haley. We thank you for accepting the office of president. We know you will do a great job!

We also welcome Steve Koluch as our new 2nd Vice President, NARFE-PAC Chair, and Network Coordinator and Michael Flahive as Legislative State and National Chairperson. Thanks to Steve and Mike for accepting these positions.



Best wishes and thanks to all officers and chairpersons for undertaking their respective roles in supporting our chapter this year!

We offer our thanks to outgoing President Deane Richter and Legislative Chairperson Dean Hemmer for their years of dedicated service to NARFE Chapter 1019. A job well done!