

Hello Everyone

With over a quarter-million Americans dead from COVID-19, almost everyone knows someone whose family, or circle of friends, has been hit by the pandemic. More than 100,000 federal employees have now tested positive for COVID-19: 50,000 civilians and more than 62,000 members of the Armed Forces. The federal community, active and retired, can take pride in keeping the business of government running during a roller-coaster ride through 2020.

As we move cautiously through the holidays, your NARFE 242 Board continues to meet virtually to explore ways to stay connected and focused on advocating for the earned pay and benefits of the federal community. At our November 20th virtual Board meeting, we exhausted and ruled out any chances of a holiday get-together, even on-line.

We did take steps to organize a virtual meeting for the Chapter in February 2021. Some of you already do Zoom meetings with family and friends. Ours would be similar: a Zoom meeting with a main speaker. If you are already receiving the Newsletter on-line, you would receive the link to the meeting the same way...in your e-mail. We are looking at February 18, 2021, in the morning, but nothing yet is firm. We are just eager to be together, in some way, albeit a new way. Lunch! Well, catered from your own kitchen..... sorry about that.

Speaking of food, please continue to be generous to the All Faiths Food Bank this year. Elsewhere in this Newsletter is the address to send a check.

Thanks from Clara Schaefer and myself to those who supported us in the Walk to End Alzheimer's this year. We surpassed our goal of \$1,000 and raised \$1,170!

In between issues of the Newsletter, please consult this 242 website for the most accurate and up-to-date information. For the big picture, there is the NARFE Magazine coming directly to you, and of course their website: NARFE.org.

Only the safest and healthiest of the holidays to you. We all want to be around to celebrate many more together!

Bill Vander Heyden
President NARFE 242 Sarasota