



January - February 2021

Hello Everyone!

It will not be hard for most of us to forget 2020: COVID-19 pandemic, the rising tensions over racial justice and violence, extremely fought-over elections, and the January 2021 chaos and death in the Capitol Building. What better time and place to recognize and honor the federal work force who kept the government open and safe throughout 2020. To recognize some and not all is risky, but the United States Postal Service has proven its worth over and over, just in delivering our prescriptions! And the Internal Revenue Service who delivered our stimulus checks!! From agencies where we once served, we can appreciate the sacrifice and service they all contributed. A special shout-out to our men and women in uniform!

While isolating has kept us all apart, as well as from our in-person meetings, in another sense it has brought us closer together. We have learned we can use technology to stay connected and to decrease our loneliness. As retired federal workers, we have learned that we can be resilient by embracing telemedicine, webinar-learning, and Zoom family get-togethers. These new technologies will forever change how we do many of our daily activities.

With that thought in mind, your NARFE 242 Board will be offering you our first virtual Chapter meeting when we gather February 18 at 1:00 pm. Yes, from the comfort of your own home and electronic device, and after your lunch. Beforehand, you will receive the invitation to join the meeting in a link in your e-mail. Our speaker, Dottie Muro, is a Case Manager at Lutheran Services of Florida, and the topic will be services they provide to seniors, from Living Wills to Medical Power of Attorney, and much more. There will be opportunity to ask questions. We plan to record the presentation, and then make it available on our website for those who cannot make the meeting itself.

“You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream,” said C. S. Lewis. Whether you have “zoomed” before or not, do not be afraid to try it. See INSTRUCTIONS at end of my message. It is a good idea to sign on 10 minutes or so before 1:00 pm to make sure that your camera and microphone are both turned on. Remember, you are “Federal.” You learned many changes in work you once did. And you still can!!

Stay healthy, and I look forward to “seeing” you February 18th @ 1:00 pm!

Bill Vander Heyden, NARFE 242 President

**INSTRUCTIONS:** If you are on a computer with internet access and do NOT have ZOOM, the link will ask for permission to install ZOOM. If you have ZOOM, it will ask permission to open it.

On a device, it should work similarly.

If you do not have ZOOM, there may be a few seconds delay to install.