



National Active and Retired Federal Employees APPLETON-FOX VALLEY CHAPTER 437 NEWSLETTER

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MARCH 2020

NARFE CHAPTER 437 MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 17, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Treasurer, Jerry Sanderfoot, in the absence of both our President and Vice-President, with 14 members and one guest present. Chaplain Roy Rogers gave the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Our speaker was Keri Schreiter from Club Gabriel. Club Gabriel is a covered benefit under contract with the Veterans Administration. It is located at Saint Paul's Elder Services, Inc. home in Kaukauna. This includes adult day care for persons who are 55 years of age or older that are looking for more structure during the day or their families are needing respite care so they might work, run errands or enjoy time for themselves. The hours are Monday thru Friday, 7:30 am to 3:30 pm, except on holidays. Most of their members do have some form of dementia, but that is not a requirement to attend Club Gabriel. There is a fee for this program. Please call (920)766-6186 for additional information and to schedule a pre-participation assessment.

REFLECTIONS: is a day care respite program for persons living with memory loss, who reside in the community, and who desire to participate in a structured program that includes specialized dementia-friendly engagements adapted to meet his

or her abilities. Transportation, meals, and assistance with personal cares are also offered. This program is held every Wednesday and Friday at the Hoffman Memory Care Resource Center at Saint Paul Elder Services from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm. There is a fee for this program.

MEMORY AND WELLNESS EDUCATION: Memory and wellness education offerings are provided on a regular basis throughout the year at the Hoffman Memory Care Resource Center at Saint Paul Elder Services. Please call ((20)766-6186 for a schedule of dates and topics.

MEMORY CAFÉ (A program of the Fox Valley Memory Project) Memory Café is a free social event for persons living with memory loss and their care partners. Facilitated by Saint Paul Elder Services associates, they feature engagement activities, speakers, and entertainment, and are an excellent way to socialize and connect with others in a relaxing atmosphere. Saint Paul Elder Services facilitates two Memory Café events per month. Kaukauna Public Library, second Monday of the month, 1:30 to 3:00 pm.

Hoffman Memory Care Resource Center at Saint Paul Elder Services,

Fourth Monday of the month, 10:30 am to Noon.

SUPPORT GROUPS: Memory care support groups are a vital connection for persons to receive

valuable information and support. Saint Paul Elder Services offers three groups on a monthly basis. All groups meet in the Hoffman Memory Care Resource Center at Saint Paul Elder Services.

- . Caregiver Support Group provides support to any care partner of a person living with dementia

- . The group meets from 4 – 5 PM the third Tuesday of the month.

- . Young Onset Spouse Group provides support to spouses of individuals under the age of 65 living with dementia. This group on the third Tuesday of the month from 6:30 – 8:00 PM.

- . Journey of Hope Grief Group provides an opportunity for adults who have experienced the loss of a loved one to establish connections with others who have experienced a loss.

The goal of this group is to provide an opportunity to share stories, to give and receive support, and to promote good self care. This group meets the first Thursday of the month from 6-7 PM.

CONSULTATION: Consultation Services are available to care partners of those living with memory loss. Services are provided by a Licensed Clinical Social Worker specialized in memory care and community resource connections. Available by appointment only . Please call (920)766-6186.

RESOURCE LIBRARY: The Hoffman Memory Care Resource Center has a lending library of books, videos, and other resources related to memory care. Please call (920)766-6168 for current hours of operation.

They also provide other services, like Catered Care Services. If you are interested in any of these programs, or need more information about any program, please call (920)766-6186.

After a short break, the meeting continued with Jerry giving his Treasurer's reports. The balance on hand, the end of February is \$1,017.43. Tom Buss gave his Legislative report. They are predicting a pay raise of 1% for federal employees for 2021. There is talk of eliminating FERS for any future hires. They will have nothing but TSP. There still are no reports on line such as the M112, which is the one Lee depends on to know what is happening. They now tell Lee that the IT company that was hired, has to send their workers for training. They were hired almost a year ago and still have not been able to produce any useful reports. Certainly doesn't sound very impressive to me. The Sunshine

Chair, Rona Kietzmann sent a get well card to Bonnie Moericke who had surgery. She also sent a get well card to Bobbie Tolliver who has been under the weather for sometime. She will be sending a get well card to Charlie Ziegler, who has been having some health problems. Charlie and Ruth have also moved into Aspire Assisted Living located at 825 Cobblestone Lane, Apartment 321 Kimberly, Wisconsin. We now have 4 members living in this community.

There will be a meeting held at the Wintergreen Resort and Convention Center at Wisconsin Dells on May 11, 2020. The meeting will run from 1 to 4 only, and is for voting on By-Laws. The Federation would like each chapter to send at least 3 delegates so they will have a quorum. This will be discussed more next month. The meeting adjourned at 1:50 PM.

From Merlin Sanderfoot, President

Lets start out by highlighting two bills of interest to our members. Both deal with the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). The first is H.R. 3934, The Equal Treatment of Public Servants Act of 2019. This bill would reform WEP-affected individuals who are eligible for benefits before 2022 a \$100 monthly rebate and \$50 for an affected spouse. So far, this bill has 44 Co-Sponsors, and none from Wisconsin. H.R. 4550, The Public Servants Protection and Fairness Act, would reform the (WEP), to provide WEP-affected individuals who are eligible for benefits before 2022 a \$150 monthly rebate. According to Congress.Gov, this bill has 135 Co-Sponsors, with Rep. Moore and Rep. Pocan from Wisconsin as signers.

Now, some information from the latest issue of NARFE News Line. The 2020 election cycle for NARFE officers kicks off with candidate statements in the March issue of NARFE Magazine. Information on bylaws amendments and resolutions will follow in the June/July issue of NARFE Magazine, and the ballot will be included in the August issue. With a dues increase of \$8.00 a year, to \$48.00, NARFE, discounts are still available for two-and three-year memberships as well as dues withholding. After reading the President's notes, Herschel A. Ryales, Southeastern WI. Chapter 1436, there are some changes coming to Social Security Benefits and the delayed retirement

credits. I know this will not effect most of our members, but those who still do not receive Social Security, it will starting in 2021. Will discuss this at our March meeting.

Now, as to our speaker for March, Beni Westgor, from United Way Fox Cities, will speak about this organization. What exactly does United Way Fox Cities do? United Way Fox Cities is committed to improving lives in our community. Through their Impact Areas they provide for people's basic needs, strengthen families, develop children and youth and promote health and healing. They identify issues, develop partnerships, implement solutions and measure results. Their goal is to create long-lasting changes by addressing the underlying causes of problems. They also provide many community service programs.

From Tom Buss, Legislative Chair

The President's 2021 budget request includes a proposal for a 1% across-the board pay raise for civilian federal employees in 2021, and reintroduces several reductions in retirement benefits. The budget proposes to slow the frequency of step increases from every 3 years to every 5 years. For retirees, it would eliminate FERS COLA and reduce CSRS COLA by .5 percent.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

LEE ADAMSKI MARCH 27TH
GEORGE ROSENOW APRIL 7TH
HAROLD MICKE APRIL 9TH
CHARLIE ZIEGLER APRIL 12TH
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

CHARLIE AND RUTH ZIEGLER APRIL 8TH

These are all the Birthdays and Anniversaries I am aware of. If I have missed someone, please let me know.



**HAPPY EASTER FROM ALL OF
YOUR OFFICERS!**

FROM THE DESK OF LEE BENNER EDITOR

It is with a heavy heart that I put this newsletter together. On Friday, February 28, 2020, my Grandson, Rick, lost his life as the result of his addition to alcohol. If only these people would admit they need help before it is too late and their organs are already to badly damaged to do anything about. I pray that if anything about this loss can help anyone of Rick's friends to start down that right path so that no other family has to go through this nightmare. Rick left behind his parents, my daughter, Colleen and her husband Dick, his sister Sarah & Phoenix and there two daughters and his own three children ages, 9, 14, 15. I pray that they will learn to accept their loss and will not fall into the dark dungeon that their father lived in. No matter how hard we all tried, Rick always insisted he didn't have a problem. His parents had him put into rehab many times but he always managed to get out because he was considered competent. Rest in peace Rick. We will try to put our lives back together.

Now back to NARFE business. There are still no useful reports online, so I guess the IT crew has not yet received the training they need.

Hopefully you are all reading your NARFE magazine. It will keep you abreast of all the bills that are important to all of us. Please take the time to contact your representatives to let them know how you feel about these bills. If we don't become proactive, we may just be watching our benefits fall

away. We have to stay on top of things if we don't want to lose the benefits we worked so hard to win. We all must work to this end, we cannot expect just a few to carry the full load for everyone. There is a lot of talk of cutting federal benefits. I don't know about all of you, but I know if they cut my benefits, it will change in a big way that will not allow me to live on my own as I now do. I like the way my life is right now and it would be a real kick in the butt to have to learn to live with much less money.

NARFE FOX VALLEY CHAPTER 437
1137 East Nawada St
Appleton WI 54911-5217
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



To contact our elected officials:

Senator Ron Johnson, 328 Hart Senate Office, WDC 20510, phone 202-224-5323, FAX 202-228-6965, email: ron_johnson@ronjohnson.senate.gov;

Senator Tammy Baldwin, 709 Hart Senate Office Building, WDC 20510 phone 202-224-5653 , email: Tammy_baldwin@Baldwin.senate.gov;

Congressman Mike Gallagher, 1230 Longworth HOB Washington, DC 20515
or locally at: 1702 Scheuring Road Suite B, DePere, WI 54115 Phone 920 301-4500

PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTIZERS!



**OUR NEXT REGULAR MEETING WILL BE ON
MARCH 16, 2020, AND WILL AT THE GOLDEN
CORRAL ON WESTHILL BOULEVARD OFF OF
WISCONSIN AVENUE IN APPLETON.
MEETING BEGINS AT 12:30 PM**

**IF YOU PLAN TO EAT PLEASE PLAN TO BE THERE IN
TIME TO FINISH BY THE TIME THE MEETING
STARTS. THE GOLDEN CORRAL OPENS AT 10:30 am
THANK YOU!**