

## Chapter Meetings

**All Meetings are  
Canceled Due to the  
Coronavirus  
Pandemic  
No Meetings in**

**July and August 2020**

**All regular chapter meetings  
begin at 1:00 pm. On the 1<sup>st</sup>  
Thursday of the month at the  
Letter Carriers Union Hall  
11716 W Greenfield Av  
West Allis, WI 53214**

**Notice! If Milwaukee Public Schools  
are closed because of conditions  
there will be no meeting that month.**



## PRESIDENTS COMMENTARY

Well I hope everyone is doing well and maintaining your sanity during the coronavirus pandemic and staying at home. I know that I have really enjoyed this period with my dog, Jimmy. I really look forward to continuing this for the foreseeable future.

My planning ahead took advantage of this time and I had cataract surgery, a Transthoracic Echo gram, a Colonoscopy along with a scope of the Esophagus. Following that I had an ultrasound of the abdomen with a follow up CT of the Abdomen Pelvis. All this brought unwanted information. Other than that, I am okay just enjoying the isolation and very few robocalls and no visitors.

I am surprised that so few people were prepared for this stay at home policy, while there is concern for small businesses, can they justify the need for so many restaurants and breweries. Just because you can does not mean you should have a restaurant and brewery on every block. There are streets where for several blocks there are fast food places to eat and drink side-by-side. Should taxpayers subsidize these misguided businesses during this economic downturn?

As chapters and federations continue to complain about NARFE's Association Management System (AMS), it has now been a year that we continue to be told that NARFE is working on the system to update the reports and the NARFE data base. The present National Secretary/Treasurer states that NARFE inherited the AMS system from the previous administration officers; it is now the most critical activity in headquarters. If there ever was a critical necessary, reason to keep a person working on this either from NARFE headquarters or their home due to Coronavirus Pandemic this is it. NARFE has closed its headquarters until June or later.

**The Wisconsin Federation Annual Meeting has been rescheduled to July 13, 2020 at the same place and same time schedule as previously announced, at the Wintergreen Resort and Conference Center in Wisconsin Dells. Start at 1:30 PM and last only that afternoon. This is due to the COVID-19 pandemic.**

### 2020 NARFE Elections and Bylaws Proposal Referendum.

Information on bylaws amendments and resolutions will be in the June/July 2020 issue of *NARFE Magazine*, and the ballot will be included in the August 2020 issue. While most bylaws items will be published in June, one item that is planned to appear on the bylaws section of the ballot bears mentioning now. In 2021, NARFE will mark its centennial anniversary. As we reach that milestone, we celebrate the progress we have made in becoming a modern, effective, well-governed association that provides valuable benefits and resources to the people who make us one of the greatest organizations – NARFE members.

In the past decade, NARFE has created opportunities that add substantial value for individual members, worked to reshape the perception of the importance of federal workers, and had a significant positive impact on legislation that affects the federal community. In that time, NARFE has worked hard to create value without increasing members dues. But we have reached the point where we will need to ask our members to pay a little more to fulfill our mission and continue to serve all our members.

## NARFE RETIREES

Retired NARFE members can save money by as much as 15% by signing up for Dues Withholding. It is a dues payment method that gives NARFE members (retirees) the option of having their annual NARFE membership dues deducted from their monthly annuities.

One twelfth of the total dues, National and Milwaukee Chapter dues which is a monthly withholding of \$3.67; the total amount for the year is \$44.04 compared to \$50.00 if you pay on an annual basis. **The Chapter has 118 Members on Dues Withholding Monthly.**

It takes 60 -90 days to process an application. Once the process is completed you will receive a new membership card. See the NARFE magazine for an application.

**Wisconsin Federation of Chapters Web Site**  
[www.narfe.org/site/wi](http://www.narfe.org/site/wi), This site will allow you  
view chapter / federation newsletters.

**Chapter Officers 2020:** Thomas Kelnhofer, President 414-282-2451, tkelnhofer3@wi.rr.com.

Al Jelinek, 1<sup>st</sup>. Vice President 262-468-4471, George Warner, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President 414-264-9915, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Vacant, Alfred Jelinek, Secretary 414-541-2286, Robert Borowski, Treasurer 262-783-5376, Pete Yeko, Sgt. At Arms 414-425-0588,

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The current reports for the Chapter show that there are 312 voting members. Information is limited at this time since NARFE struggles with the new Association Management System (AMS), as of 4/25/2020

National Members in Chapter Area 157  
Total Chapter plus National Members 469  
Chapter Members with a one-year membership 104  
Chapter Members with a Two-year membership 29  
Chapter Members with a Three-year membership 50  
Chapter Members with Dues Withholding 118  
Chapter Members with a Life Membership 8  
Chapter Members with an Honorary Chapter only 3

## CONSUMER PRICES - COLA

Relevant to the cost-of-living-adjustment (COLA) to civil service annuities for 2021, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) decreased by 0.22 percent in March 2020.

The new CPI-W figure for March was 251.375, 0.47 percent higher than the average CPI-W for the third quarter of 2019, which was 250.199 (1982-84 = 100).

### FECA COLAs

Individuals receiving insurance benefits under the Federal Employees Compensation Act (FECA) received a 2.3 percent COLA in March 2020. Looking ahead to the 2021 COLA for FECA benefits, the March 2020 CPI-W figure (251.375) is 0.37 percent higher than the December 2019 CPI-W figure (250.452).

**NARFE Greater Milwaukee Chapter 94**  
**6524 West Carpenter Avenue**  
**Milwaukee WI 53220-4551**

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**US POSTAGE PAID**  
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**PERMIT NO. 3913**

## RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**May – June 2020 Issue**

## LEGISLATION- UPDATE

Lawmakers heeded NARFE’s call to provide protection to seniors facing requirements to withdraw a far greater percentage of their retirement accounts than expected, which would have forced many to sell assets at stock values depressed by the current crisis. The common-sense suspension of required minimum distributions from retirement accounts in 2020 will help seniors retain a greater portion of their retirement savings, which have no doubt taken a hit amid the stock market downturn.

Not only are seniors dealing with the frightening threat of COVID-19 infection, they must also manage the economic repercussions from retirement investment losses.

NARFE is encouraged by increased funding for the Office of Personnel Management to allow for electronic retirement applications, now essential during a time of increased telework. While this is long overdue, it is our hope that this additional funding will be the jumping off point to fully digitize retirement processing. New retirees deserve to have their federal careers honored by the timely processing of their retirement applications.

CHAPTER 94 NEWSLETTER is published six times a year for the members of Chapter 94. Editor: Thomas Kelnhofer, 6524 West Carpenter Avenue, Milwaukee WI 53220-4551, (414) 282-2451. Articles and opinions printed herein are not necessarily those of Chapter 94 or NARFE. Acknowledgment is made that some material may be taken from other publications and revised, rewritten, extrapolated or condensed.

## TRUMP’S FY21 BUDGET CUTS CONTINUE

The very people whom President Trump praised in December for their devotion, vigilant efforts and contributions now face a bleak financial future as the president once again proposes substantial cuts and insufficient advance to civil servants’ earned pay and benefits in his FY21 budget request.

At a time when the federal government faces ominous recruitment and retention challenges, the president’s FY 21 budget continues to shortchange and renege on previous commitments to federal employees and retirees. These contemptible recommendations do nothing more than undermine the strength of our resilient civil service, and I urge Congress to reject it outright.

Increasing FERS employees’ contributions to their annuities by one percent each year for the next six years without any corresponding benefit increase. This will cost FERS employees \$87.4 billion over the next 10 years. Eliminating the FERS annuity supplement for new retiree. This benefit provided to FERS employees who retire before they are eligible to collect Social Security. Reducing the rate of return on the Thrift Savings Plan’s “G” Fund. Calculating new retiree pensions based on the average of the highest five years of salary instead of the highest three. Reducing working and retirement-age benefits for federal workers disabled as a result of their service, them \$212 million over 10 years.

NARFE supports Senate Legislation to Reform Windfall Elimination Provision, while ultimately pushing for a full repeal of the (WEP), along with its evil twin the Government Pension Offset (GPO); reform efforts such as Senator Ted Cruz’s Equal Treatment of Public Servants Act of 2020, are positive first steps toward correcting this discriminatory practice.

## WISCONSIN MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

Senator Tammy Baldwin 633 W Wisconsin Av. STE 1920, Milwaukee WI 53203-1918, 414-297-4451, Washington DC 202-224-5653  
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