



FEDERAL BENEFITS EXPERTS

MADISON  
WISCONSIN

CHAPTER 120

# NEWS

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JUNE 1, 2020



## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Linda Kustka

I'm missing seeing you at NARFE gatherings! Your Chapter 120 Board feels that it's not completely safe to

meet in June. Unanimously, we decided it is important to cancel the June meeting to keep everyone healthy. We hope to see you face to face in August!

I hope you are making the best of "social distancing." I'm hearing stories of people getting all sorts of "someday" tasks done. Quilting has been fun for me and I've just finished #5 of the unfinished projects (none were bed size). Has connecting by Zoom entered your life? It's been a fun way to connect with friends and family. When separated by miles, we often don't see each other. Thanks to the internet, we're realizing that we don't need a virus to stay in touch. I hope this will continue when we feel it's safe to resume more in person activities.

Belated Happy Memorial Day! Many NARFE members have served their country in the military. We honor both your armed service and federal employment contributions to our wellbeing. Thank you!

Before we next meet in person, stay in touch. We look forward to reflecting on this unique time with you! Stay healthy!

## HELLO IN THERE

Roberta Herschleb

It seemed odd one recent day to find just one item in my mailbox - a postcard to let me know USPS is hiring. Although I have practiced for years a clumsy choreography for the movement of paper from a full mailbox to the recycling bin, to maintain an elegant balance between sensible sorting and swiftness in this chore performance I need volume and repetition.

The unusually airy mailbox space may be due to our Covid-19 times. As businesses struggle, they have reduced mailing, cutting some USPS income. Meanwhile, we rely more than ever on mail service and package delivery for prescriptions, stimulus checks, voting by mail *and so much more*.

As many who are at risk isolate at home, I think of the John Prine song "Hello in There". The lyrics were informed by his five years as a mail carrier, when he saw that it sometimes falls to the mail carrier to notice a problem and call out "Hello in there?". We lost legendary singer/songwriter John Prine this year to Covid-19. (cont. page 2)

According to Zip Recruiter's marketplace data, some of the fastest increases in jobs posted during the past 8 weeks have been for postal carrier, registered nurse for telemedicine, grocery shopper, and warehouse handler. We clearly depend upon these services and workers. With renewed awareness of what and who is essential, what and who will we support? Cuts to service and facilities? More noncareer labor? Rollbacks of employee rights and benefits? How much do we appreciate that the mission for the USPS is for non-commercial civic service?

While other operations and individuals benefitted recently from federal emergency funds, the USPS is still waiting for help. Without our support, will we be outside *their* shuttered doors asking: "Hello in there?"

## SUNSHINE REPORT

Veronica Guski

Several deaths to report:

**John Roberts** passed away on 4/14/20. John was the Extension Program Leader for Natural and Environmental Resources.

**Elizabeth Wiggert** passed away on 4/10/20. Beth did much volunteer work throughout her life, which included tutoring students with learning disabilities.

**Gerald Nelson** died on 2/27/20. Gerald worked in Social Work at the Tomah Veterans Hospital.

**Donna Hughes** died on 4/27/20. Donna retired from the U.S. Dept of Justice.

**Bruce Dietrich** died on 5/8/20. Bruce worked for the post office for over 30 years.

**Edith Brown** died on 5/14/20. She cared for children with disabilities in her home for 25 years.

## MADISON CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

Myrna & Dobbin McNatt

After about a year without any Chapter Activity Reports posted at the NARFE website, new members, deaths, etc. are reported under the Officer Portal at the National NARFE website.

Below is a summary of the Madison Chapter for the period of June 1, 2019 - May 20, 2020: Twelve new Chapter members are listed: Tim Kennedy, Angela Biggs, Linda Crubaugh, Rosalia Hammes, Tracy Egan, Eugene Hausner, Brian Pillsbury, Barbara Charly, Dawn Eskau, Tracy Blankinship, Ruth Moore and Pamela Barrett. Seventeen members were dropped for non-renewal, with 6 of them reinstating membership after being contacted. The 16 people listed as New Prospective Members will be contacted. The following were listed as passed away: Lois McKinley, Alfred Finger, Thomas Oconnel, Harold Fischer, Della Burmeister, Henry Schoeberle, Richard Gallbrath, Edward Prem, Philip Postel, Robert Schirmacher, William Nelson, Rose Siebert, Cheryl Budack, Glendora Baker, Dorothy Standridge, Theodore Iltis, Fern Klug, Stanley Jazwinski, Helen Warriner.

**If anyone spots errors in these listings, please notify us and we will see that corrections are made.**

<[mydomcnatt@tds.net](mailto:mydomcnatt@tds.net)> (608) 831-5759.

## FEDERAL AGENCIES RESPOND TO COVID-19

How are federal agencies responding to Covid-19?

You can find out how at least 104 different federal departments are responding at: <https://www.usa.gov/government-coronavirus-response>

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Tom Miller

This morning May 24th, my journal entry simply stated: "Day 73." Some days I have a lot to say while other days, the reminder of how many days we've stayed at home during the pandemic is enough. I note with excitement our few excursions to do curbside pickup, mail a letter or package at the Post Office, and our walks in the neighborhood. Our days are filled with the occasional Zoom gathering, an online learning opportunity, emailing or calling friends and family, writing, reading, and cooking. My biggest worry is about those workers who have lost jobs and rely on the generosity of their community to obtain food and pay their rent. Let's do what we can, within our means, to help those in their time of need. We remember the workers who care for those suffering from the virus and comfort the nearly 100,000 fellow Americans that have lost their lives so far during this pandemic.

This past week the June/July issue of the NARFE Magazine hit our mailboxes. In addition to the NARFE Bill Tracker on pages 11-13, check out a couple other articles of interest. The first is on page 9 with the announcement that August is NARFE's Grassroots Advocacy Month. This is an annual reminder to contact our Senators and Representative to let them know our position on pending legislation. This year NARFE Headquarters is asking us to focus on two priorities: The Fair COLA for Seniors Act and the Reform of the Windfall Elimination Provision. I would add voicing our support for our colleagues at the US Postal Service.

The second article "Inspired to Serve" submitted by the National Commission on Military, National and Public Service starts on page 36 and continues through page 41. The Commission report offers concrete ideas for the revamp of Federal personnel systems and promotes the value of public service. During this time of COVID-19, we are seeing some of

the gaps in the services provided by public employees on the Federal, State, and local levels. A couple of examples are the CDC, NIH, unemployment offices, and the ability of state and local public health departments to identify virus outbreaks and do contact tracing. The implementation of the report's recommendations is up to our Senators and Representatives. It will take advocates like NARFE to help them understand the importance and value of these changes to Federal work.

Have a safe summer and stay healthy!

If you have any questions about NARFE legislative matters please contact me either by email or phone.

Respectfully submitted,  
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### Chapter 120 OFFICERS AND CHAIRS 2020

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## 2020 NARFE CHAPTER 120 MEETINGS

When restaurants reopen for dining in, breakfast gatherings at Monona Garden Family Restaurant in Monona (8 am socialize, 8:30 am eat) and luncheon meetings at Rex's Innkeeper in Waunakee (11 am socialize, noon luncheon meeting) may resume if safe for our members.

NARFE Chapter 120 members normally meet on the fourth Friday of even numbered months for luncheon and in odd numbered months for breakfast. The exception is December, when our luncheon is on the second Friday. Be sure to check local news and our newsletter for updates.

Do you need to change your address, phone or E-mail listing?

There are several ways you can do this.

We recommend you do one of these in addition to completing the USPS change of address to save the cost of "Address Service Requested".

1. Go to [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org), log in and click on "Update My Record"
2. E-mail [memberrecords@narfe.org](mailto:memberrecords@narfe.org)
3. Call (toll free) 1-800-456-8410

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