

Volume XXVII	Issue 05	June/July/August 2020
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Greetings Everyone; We are slowly coming back! We can't say enough about how much we have missed each of you. Hopefully, we can get life back to normal before too much more time passes. We have to take each step coming back very slowly, one step at a time. It will be great seeing each of you again.

MEETINGS:

Our meetings are tentatively scheduled for June 24, July 22 and August 26th, all at the American Legion at 12:00 p.m., 634 Water St, Eau Claire. Since the restrictions placed on the Legion have not been lifted as we prepare this newsletter, the Legion (and us) have to wait on weekly updates from the City/County Health Department, our next update is June 17. At this time, we suggest that if you are sick, please wait until the next month to attend.

Call me on June 19 or shortly afterwards, we will then know if we will be able to have a June meeting, we should be able to have answers. Most surrounding counties businesses are "open for business as usual" except for Eau Claire County. If the County does not make a decision very soon, the Legion won't be able to open until the July meeting at the earliest.

Meeting or no meeting on June 24th, we need to ask for the names of those members who wish to attend and participate in the WI Federation Annual Meeting to be held on July 13 in WI Dells at the Wintergreen Resort and Conference Center. Our Chapter Board plans to attend and have a car pool to accommodate our Chapter members who would like to go. This is a one-day trip, drive down for the meeting and return to Eau Claire later that same day. Contact Mark Schmitt or myself, if interested. This meeting may determine the status/future of each of the WI Chapters and changing our bylaws which could eliminate our "voices" in the process. NARFE was founded to give "Voice" to each federal employee/retiree through individuals/chapters with annual meetings, and State and National Conventions. Without Conventions, our individual right to introduce, debate, question or to vote on changes or update our bylaws, our right to vote is eliminated. Peggy J.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER: Mark Schmitt

2020 has really been an unusual year, pandemics, early tornado and hurricane season, and a tropical storm in our area last night. We are in a very difficult time. Add to that the unrest just across the border in Minnesota that has spread to a National movement. What a year! As we plan for our schedule, we have a long shot at a meeting this month (June) and hopefully in July and August barring any spike in the virus. NARFE National is still working from home. Our Federation is still scheduled for the annual meeting July 13th i.e. it has not been canceled yet so if members are interested in attending, let myself or Peggy know and we will try to arrange carpooling. It is a one day,

meeting so it would be down to the Dells and back the same day. The other event I am wondering about is the Walk to End Alzheimer's in September. We are able to fund raise at our Chapter meetings in July, August and September but if we are not able to meet, I hope we can still have donations. With that in mind, I am willing to challenge our members with a match. Over the past few years, we have raised between \$500 and \$700 dollars for this walk. I am willing to match our Chapter donations up to \$800.00 for the walk this year. If you cannot attend a meeting, you can mail your check to myself or our Treasurer, Kathy, prior to the walk and I will match it. I hope this will raise our donation to this great cause.

I hope to see you all at an upcoming meeting, but it that does not happen I hope you have a great summer. Stay safe and healthy.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Kathy Pospishil

Treasurers Report as of 8 June 2020

\$ 1407.04 Balance beginning of Apr
\$ 183.47 Receipts in April
\$ (110.93) Disbursements in Apr.
\$ 1479.58 Balance Beginning of May
\$ 289.48 Receipts in May
\$ (0.00) Disbursements in May
\$ 1769.06 Balance Beginning of June

I am now getting all the reports that I used to get from National.

NATIONAL LEGISLATION REPORT:
Doris Bautch, Nat'l Legislative Director

Social Security – It appears that the cost of living adjustment (COLA) for Social Security Benefits may be zero or close to zero for 2021.

COVID-19 — Federal agencies are in the process of planning for employees to return to work after several months of teleworking; however, there is a possibility that teleworking for some federal employees may become permanent at some agencies.

THOUGHTS & SUGGESTIONS: Ken Kolbe – VP

Here we are month 3 plus. I hope all are doing well. Barb has been working from home for three months now and maybe until she retires. My disaster teams have been requested three times in WI in the Milwaukee area, but due to my injuries, I could not respond. As we all know that the state court has refused science and made the local minimally staffed health departments make their own rules for their communities. The science has shown that close contact and age, greater than 60, with contributing diseases make the likely hood of hospitalization and death a greater possibility. My nursing friends in the Twin Cities are almost over the max of their capacity and were moving patients

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

to outlying hospitals. From what I have seen in the science is that this will be a **normal** for years to come. Stay safe, wash your hands, don't touch your face.

Something we have started with my master gardener group is a one hour Zoom meeting. The County Ext. Person is the host of a one hour every Thursday, one week in the morning "coffee hour" and the next week in the evening "happy hour". It gives anyone in the group a chance to check in on what is happening. It also gives us an hour education for Master Gardner Ed Time.

Where I am going with this is maybe we need to push that everyone needs to have an email access and we could have a digital meeting once a month to be connected.

SERVICE OFFICER/DEATHS: *Bill Michels*

Frances H. Backe, age 97 of Eau Claire passed away on April 13, 2020 at Heritage Assisted Living in Eau Claire. She was an Honorary – Distinguished Member of our Chapter, joining NARFE in March, 1984. Her federal work was done for USDA-SSIS. She is survived by daughters, Mary and Sue. Chapter 371 sends their heartfelt sympathy to the family.

NOTES: Peggy

I know that this has been a trying time for many, not only for those with the virus, but those who were scheduled for medical procedures that were either cancelled or rescheduled for months from now. We only hope that all goes well for each of you, we pray that it does.

I have heard of many doctors taking unscheduled vacations and hospital staffs laying people off or putting staff on rotating schedules of working one week on and one week off. I know of nurses (military reservists) who were called to active duty (they volunteered) and went to work in New York City and stayed because they had the knowledge and skills needed, give the local nurses some time off. I had grandchildren working in NYC who left there and went home to parent's homes and continued their jobs from there. Much better situation than no job! The hardest hit were the medical college students when the colleges closed down! Their schedules were drastically changed until they will be able to graduate.

I wonder how this will be recorded in history books in the future. First time all Churches closed down in U.S. History, not during wartime or the swine flu epidemic or the 1917 diphtheria. Wonder if this is a sign of things to come!

Suggestion, get outdoors and enjoy the sunshine, call a friend or neighbor, when hospitals allow visitors, go and visit someone. Stay well.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS IN MONTH OF JUNE/JULY/AUGUST

JUNE: Brue, Mary E; Bunce, Marjorie; Burbank, John A; Gessel, Linda J; Goettl, Deone L; Grorud, Glen V; Henderson, Hildegard P; Hilson, June C; Johnson, Gary R; Lindquist, Lawrence D; Michalski, Jerome; Reber, Gary; Sabin, Patricia;

Verstegen, Peter; Waldenberger, Cynthia A; Waniorek, Diane K.

JULY: Barringer, Barry J; Boss, David J; Brenholt, Wayne; Ellwood, Sheryl B; Nelson, Blake R; Price, Victor L; Rehberg, Gerald H; Storm, Marianne E; Waller, Gordon D.

AUGUST:

Brandner, Kathryn E; Carney, Donald W; Gaier, Norbert J; Garagiola, Brenda K; Helland, Charlene; Homme, Candis A; Jackson, Betty J; Johnston, Jeff; Kaczmarek, Susanne M; Koller, Gregory; Larabee, Michael B; Nortman, Linda; Olson, Severt N; Paine, Malcolm L; Price, John E; Rogowski, John D; Rothbauer, Bonnie M; Saffert, David; Schauer, Karen E; Schultz, Cora L; Selz, John R; Silvernale, John A; Sommerfeld, Keith; Wilcox, Mildred L.
Woods, Sharon R;

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 Ron Kind, 1502 Longworth HOB, WDC 20515, phone 202-225-5506 Fax 202-225-5739; email: ronkind@mail.house.gov;

Congressman Thomas Tiffany, 1714 Longworth HOB, WDC 20515, phone 202-225-3365; email: tomtiffany@mail.house.gov

