



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

Officers

President: Merlin Sanderfoot, W1419 Peters Rd, Kaukauna WI 54130 **920-766-5368** Email: mmfoot5@yahoo.com
Vice President: Boni Moericke, N9510 Cathy Court, Appleton, WI 54915 **Ph: 920-257-4664** Email: BeeJav163512@yahoo.com
Secretary: Bud Prentice, 1137 E. Nawada St, Appleton WI 54911-5217 **Ph: 920-733-4703**
Treasurer: Jerry Sanderfoot, 112 Edgewood Ln, Combined Locks WI 54113-1256 **Ph: 920-759-7447** Email: jsanderfoot@new.rr.com
Legislation: Tom Buss, 320 Bellin St Neenah, WI 54956-4116, **Ph: 920-729-9316** Email: tbuss100@yahoo.com
Sunshine Chairperson: Rona Rae Kietzmann, E9642 Kanamann Road, New London, WI 54961, **Ph: 920-779-4885**
Alzheimer Chairperson: Jerry Sanderfoot, 112 Edgewood Ln, Combined Locks WI 54113-1256 **Ph: 920-759-7447** Email: jsanderfoot@new.rr.com
Newsletter Editor: Lee Benner, N4277 County Road PP, Appleton WI 54913-8385 **Ph: 920-209-9978** Email: lhb0922@aol.com
Chaplain & Sergeant-at-Arms: Roy Rogers, 821 Arthur St, Menasha WI 54952-2527 **Ph: 920-722-2477** Email: darfive@new.rr.com
Membership Committee: Lee Benner, N4277 County Road PP, Appleton WI 54913-8385 **Ph: 920-209-9978** Email: lhb0922@aol.com
Service Officers: Lee Benner, N4277 County Road PP, Appleton, WI 54913-8385 **Ph: 920-209-9978** Email: lhb0922@aol.com
Jerry Sanderfoot, 112 Edgewood Lane, Combined Locks, WI 54113-1256 **Ph: 920-759-7447** Email: jsanderfoot@new.rr.com

JULY 2020

FROM MERLIN SANDERFOOT, PRESIDENT

Hoping everyone is safe and healthy. Mary and I are just fine along with the family, but, not everybody can say that. As of April 28th, more than 10,000 federal employees have tested positive for the COVID-19 virus. I haven't been able to find any newer information since that date. According to the news source "Government Executive", while most federal employees are still teleworking, many agencies have missions that cannot be performed remotely and hundreds of thousands of federal workers continue reporting to their work stations.

At some agencies, employees are instructed to continue working and an additional 4,265 military personnel tested positive. The VA has confirmed 1,633 cases among its Veterans Health Administration employees. Twenty employees have died from symptoms to the virus. The U.S. Postal Service has confirmed 1,606 employees tested positive for the virus. (According to the June Postal Record, fourteen letter carriers have died.) The State Department

had confirmed 436 cases in its workforce in which 5 have died. TSA has seen 495 employees tested positive and all told, 1,000 Homeland Security Department workers have tested positive. The USDA's had at least 100 safety inspectors test positive. 100 IRS employees have contracted the COVID-19. Along with the 74 employees at Health and Human Services and at least 10 at the National Park Services have tested positive. As I mentioned, this is as of April 28th. Also noted in the article, Interior declined to provide updated figures across its bureaus.

Along with this, it was decided again not to have a Chapter meeting in July. According to last Sunday's Post Crescent article, the Golden Corral was hoping to open up mid July, so with no meeting place confirmed, we will hope for something in August.

So far, the conference at the Dells is still set for the 13th of this month. As of now, Jerry and myself are going. Stay well!

FROM TOM BUSS, LEGISLATIVE CHAIR

MYTH: Federal employees enjoy lavish pensions at the expense of taxpayers.

REALITY: The average federal pension is quite modest. According to data from the Office of Personnel Management, the median pension for retirees under the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) was less than \$3000.00 a month. For employees hired after 1986 and in the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS), the median monthly pension was less than \$1,000.00. CSRS employees do not pay into Social Security, accordingly, do not receive any Social Security benefits for their government service. If they paid into Social Security while working a private-sector job, their Social Security benefits are greatly diminished under the Windfall Elimination Provision.

FROM THE DESK OF LEE BENNER

Well, here we are again, another month has flown by and the world situation has not changed. The country is still pretty much locked down. This includes a lot of businesses deemed non-essential, like restaurants, so we, as your officers don't have much choice but to cancel another meeting.

On that note, if we would have our annual picnic in August, how many of you would feel comfortable enough to come to my home like we have done for many years. A lot of work goes into getting everything ready on this end and I am wondering if there would be enough people interested in coming if we decide to have the picnic. Nothing is for sure at this point as we don't know if the virus may have gotten worse and we are in another hard lock-down or not. It

is very hard to figure out which way to turn with this pandemic thing still on us. **I would need to know one way or the other whether you would attend or not.** We would have to a head count to be able to know how much meat to prepare. If it does happen, it would be the same as other years, each one bring a dish to pass and the chapter would furnish the meat and soda and water.

If you would want something other than that, please plan to bring that yourself.

Please be sure to let me know, Lee Benner, phone number: 920-209-9978, whether or not you would be interested in attending.

I will be doing another newsletter in August, but wanted to get this information out now so you will have time to think about it. Please let me know no later than AUGUST 1st, so your officers and yours truly can get it in the August newsletter.

I had listed all the birthdays and anniversaries in last month newsletter, all the way through until the October newsletter would come out. So, now on to the next problem.

Since we, in the field have been unable to get any chapter reports of value and the last two days I can't even access the National website, I have no idea as to how many of our members have been sent notices or been dropped for non-payment of dues in over a year now. May of 2019 is the last activity reports National has had on their website. I have been told that the reports have been contracted out of the headquarters. I have waited patiently for the out source company to get their act together since, as I have said,

May of 2019. When I try to sign on it tells me that my ID or password are wrong. I have used the same ID and password for over 2 years, so I have no idea what that message means.

So if any of you have received a dues notice, please send in your dues as soon as possible, especially if you have received a second notice. The last report I saw, it said someone was dropped for none renewal, but the last membership report still shows that person as a chapter member. That same report also shows members as still active whom, I know for a fact, headquarters has been notified that they have passed away. Please anyone, if you can give me any help on this subject, please let me know.

I know if I had hired and outside company to handle the National reports and they still, after well over one year hadn't provided correct online reports to the membership chairs of local chapters, they would have been fired a long time ago. With all the IT-tech companies out there available, there most certainly have to be some a lot more efficient than what they are using.

Now along those lines, I have mentioned it before and am bringing it up again, before October, we will need someone to step up as our chapter President, our chapter Treasurer, and our chapter Secretary. Our current treasurer told us earlier this year, when we were able to still have our meetings, that he was stepping down for health reasons. Since then, Bud, our Secretary of many years, has taken a nasty fall on the ice and can no longer use the typewriter and at 91 years of age, has certainly done his fair share for the chapter, cannot transcribe the recorded minutes. He is still willing to get the newsletters stuffed, labeled and mailed, after

I type them up, print them and collate and fold them and bring them to him to finish the job. I have been doing about all I can to keep things together, but I am not getting any younger either and can not take on any more responsibilities.

On top of that, I have a young daughter-in-law who has been fighting stage four cancer since March of 2017, and last month, after more testing, has been told her cancer is back. Just this week, she has found another breast lump and when they get through with God knows how many more tests, will probably be needing help in getting to treatments, doctors, etc. She has been on constant chemo treatments since March of 2017. Their family, along with the cancer has also just in the last month, had a 17 year old daughter, my granddaughter, have to have rods put into her entire spine. She is doing very well since surgery, which was 9 hours long, but she is not able to help the way she had been. They also have a 14 year old son at home. I am asking any of you who can, or will to please pray for their family if you could.

Just saw online that Outagamie County is implementing mandatory face masks, in some parts of the county. If you want to get inside the Outagamie County Government Center. Starting July 13th, you will have to add a new piece to your wardrobe –a face mask. It will no longer just be encouraged, but required. Outagamie county will provide face coverings to anyone who doesn't have their own. "We need to have 100% compliance, so if someone refuses to wear a mask, and they do not have any medical reason to do that, they will be turned away," Outagamie County Executive Tom Nelson said. Brewster Village, Appleton International Airport and

Outagamie County Sheriff's Office are included in the mandate. County-owned Plamann Park falls under the same order.

Signs posted in the park remind visitors of the guidelines. Nelson says it's because COVID-19 shows no signs of slowing down.

Winnebago County Health Department says it also wants people to wear masks during face-to-face interactions with county workers. Winnebago County has already bought masks and will provide them to anyone who needs one.

So from the way this sounds, we will all be wearing masks whether we like them or not. I for one, don't especially like them because of my health problems, but I don't go anywhere without mine. I certainly don't need to ask for COVID-19. Everyone stay safe and stay well, until we can see each other again.

NARFE FOX VALLEY CHAPTER 437
1137 East Nawada St
Appleton WI 54911-5217
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**OUR NEXT REGULAR MEETING WILL BE ON ?????? ,
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!**