

## **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.**

## **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 117 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.



## **PRESIDENTS COMMENTARY**

I hope all of you are healthy and avoiding the Coronavirus. I know many of you feel you are confined in a prison. Some have thrown caution to the wind and we see the result of this in many states where the Coronavirus has had a resurgence.

In August, your ballot for the NARFE election will appear in the *NARFE Magazine*, there will also be a voting website. Voting closes at 11:59 pm. Eastern time on August 31, 2020. NARFE Officer Candidate Statements were in the March issue of the *NARFE Magazine*. The last time members voted (2018) very few did, the people you vote for will guide the direction of NARFE for the next two years. The 2020 Proposals Submitted for your vote are only listed by number Title and who submitted it. There is no other information given, so if you have questions regarding a proposal you can give me a call. Also, you will be voting on a Dues Increase B-2020 of \$8.00.

I personally am not happy with the current officers due to the poor retention of current members and lack of recruiting new members. Additionally, it took over a year to update the AMS data base system reports. Please read the June – July issue of the NARFE magazine for the officer reports.

August 11, 2020 is also the Partisan Presidential primary in which you vote for candidates in a particular party. Think about who you vote for in the primary, the successful candidates will be on the General Election ballot in November.

As you will see on page 2, I have listed the Activity Report information for the months of May and June something we have not had since May of last year. When NARFE went to their new system they made dues payments to Chapters and Federations based on the May 2019 payments through November 2019. Now underpayments will be made in July and overpayments will be withheld from payments in June and continue until the amount owed is reduced to zero.

Hopefully, the Chapter will be able to have a Chapter meeting before the end of the year and comply with any restrictions in effect at that time. I do not think we will have to worry about the number of members attending because the hall capacity is 105 and if the limit is 50%, we will be okay.

The Wisconsin Federation of NARFE will have its Annual Meeting on July 13 at the Wintergreen Resort in the Wisconsin Dells, at 1:30 pm. The meeting will be Face to Face, using social distancing, and wearing masks if you so choose. A quorum is needed to vote on the newly proposed by-laws. It is anticipated **not** to be a long meeting. Regional VP, Robert Helfrich will be there via Skype. Everyone is invited.

Your next big shocker could be your 2021 FEHBP premiums. Record-high, double-digit health premium increases to be announced this fall and effective January 2021. Some experts in health insurance have projected that premiums overall for all Americans could rise by 40% if not more. Many people could save money shopping during Open Season, only about 6% of the eligible change plans. Retirees and older workers tend to stay in the same plans year after year.

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

**Dropped for Non-Renewal:** Phyllis Leonard; Barbara Brooks

**Members Renewed:** Edward R Johnson; Terry A Zastrow; Judith A Packer; Mary C Cuisinier; Howard R Mcclanaham; Robert Winans; Sandra C Alioto; Luca Alverno; Joanne Serdynski; Pamela J Millington; Dolores Skidmore; Eula Sutton

**Members Reinstated:** Barbara A Karges; Dean R Martell

**Member Passed Away;** William T Brockel

**New Prospective Member:** Matthew Jacobs

Above information is from May and June Reports.

# 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) went unchanged in May 2020

The new CPI-W figure for May 2020 was 249.521, 0.27 percent lower than the average CPI-W for the third quarter of 2019, which was 250.200.

## FECA COLAs

Looking ahead to the 2021 COLA for FECA benefits, the May 2020 CPI-W figure (249.515) is 0.37 percent lower than the December 2019 CPI-W (250.452).

At the present time it does not look like there will be a COLA for 2021.

**NARFE Greater Milwaukee Chapter 94**  
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**Milwaukee WI 53220-4551**

**NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION**  
**US POSTAGE PAID**  
**MILWAUKEE, WI**  
**PERMIT NO. 3913**

# RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## July – August 2020 Issue

# LEGISLATION- UPDATE

Summer is here, and congressional campaigns and NARFE-PAC are in full throttle. The next few months are going to be crucial for the PAC, both in terms of electing Fed-friendly candidates and in reaching NARFE-PAC’s goals. I encourage members to answer NARFE’s call to action and contribute to the PAC.

House, Senate lawmakers urge USPS to reassess expected losses from coronavirus. The Postal Service in April predicted a severe drop in revenue from the coronavirus would leave the agency without enough cash to operate by the end of the year. This dire prediction, along with a request from USPS for \$75 billion to offset its losses, led top Democrats to push for emergency funding in several coronavirus spending bills. The Postal Service told the committees that USPS expected to see a \$13 billion loss in revenue this year directly tied to the pandemic.

Vote-by-mail remains a concern. The Postal Service continues to serve as the “face of the federal government” to millions of Americans receiving 2020 census forms and ballots in

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.

# NARFE BILL TRACKER

Government Pension and Windfall Elimination Provision: H.R. 141/S. 521 Repeals both the GPO and the WEP.

H.R. 3934/S.3401 Reforms the Windfall Elimination Provision to provide WEP affective individuals who are eligible for benefits before 2022 a \$100 monthly rebate and \$50 for an affective spouse. Changes the WEP calculation moving forward.

H.R. 4540 Public Servants Protection and Fairness Act; Reforms the Windfall Elimination Provision to provide WEP affected individuals who are eligible for benefits before 2022 a \$150 monthly rebate. Changes the WEP calculation moving forward.

H.R. 1254, The Equal COLA Act. Provides Federal Employees Retirement System retirees with the same annual cost-of-living adjustment COLA as Civil Service Retirement System retirees.

H.T. 1553 fair COLA for Seniors Act of 2019. Requires Social Security and federal retirement programs to use the Consumer Price index for the Elderly (CPI-E) to calculate cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) to retirement benefits.

H.R. 5690/ S.3231 Federal Adjustment of income Rates (Fair) Act. Provides federal employees with a 3.5 percent pay raise in 2020.

# 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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