



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

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OCTOBER 2020

FROM PRESIDENT MERLIN SANDERFOOT

As I'm nearing the end of my presidency, I'll be doing some rambling and raving, so please bear with me. As I've stated before, after eight years I'll be leaving the office of president, so hopefully someone will step up and accept this position. Also, with the passing of Bud we now need a secretary, and along with that a treasure. I'm sure you can see where I'm going with this, we just might be discussing the closure of our chapter. And adding too this, with COVID and not having a place to meet to discuss these issues, the end is nearing very fast. As I said I'll be done at the end of December, the secretary position is open now, and I'm not sure what Jerry's time frame is. Finding a place to meet for our meetings will be another problem to overcome, as of last week the Golden Corral was still closed and who knows when and if it will open again. But, if worse comes to worse, we still will have to have at least one more meeting to hand out Christmas gifts and possibly discuss our closing.

Next subject, Open Season! Starting Nov 9th till Dec. 14, 2020, the Federal Employees Health Benefits program will be in progress. Federal retirees and survivors may make changes to their current enrollment. Sometime this month OPM will release information regarding the 2021 premiums and benefit changes for the plans and NARFE will publish selected premium rates and information in the November and December issues of NARFE magazine. You can also visit the NARFE website at www.narfe.org.

Vote, Vote, Vote, with the elections in November fast approaching, now would be a good time to study the October issue of NARFE. They list how our elected State Representatives voted on key NARFE issues, and remember what our organization is about, to support legislation and regulations beneficial to federal civilian employees and annuitants and potential annuitants under any federal civilian retirement system and to oppose those detrimental to their interests. You can also

check out the NARFE election results online, but I will mention our region IV Vice President Robert Helfrich was reelected for another term.

Now ending, a thought to remember “ the aging process could be slowed down if it had to work its way through Congress”.

FROM TOM BUSS, LEGISLATIVE CHAIR

We do not know what the final figure will be that is necessary for calculating the COLA to become effective in December and paid in January 2021. A reasonable estimate is that the COLA that will impact federal retirees and Social Security recipients will be about 1.2%. This missing part of the puzzle for next year's COLA will be released around October 13th.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

LARRY KESSLER OCTOBER 23RD
RAY NOFFKE OCTOBER 28TH
CATHY JOHNSON NOVEMBER 3RD
RUTH ZIEGLER NOVEMBER 10TH
KEN SUEHRING NOVEMBER 11TH
TOM BUSS NOVEMBER 12TH
JOE RICKERT NOVEMBER 20TH
ALICE NOFFKE NOVEMBER 28TH

**THERE ARE NO ANNIVERSARIES THAT I
AM AWARE OF DURING THIS TWO
MONTH PERIOD.**

FROM THE DESK OF LEE BENNER

Well, another month has flown by and the virus is still with us and getting stronger. Does anyone have a suggestion for a different place to meet other than Golden Corral? It doesn't appear as though they will be reopening, at least not any time soon. According to the news, our governor has now ruled that these types of businesses can

only be filled to 25% capacity, so that would mean we would only be able to have a portion of that 25% for our group. That being said, there are not many places that would be able to accommodate our group along with their other customers. If anyone has any ideas, please contact either Merlin or myself to let us know.

Now again, I must inform you of the passing of another one of our long time members, Charlie Ziegler. Charlie passed away on October 3, 2020. Charlie and Ruth had moved from their home to Aspirious in Kimberly shortly after our February meeting. Their new address is 825 Cobblestone Lane, Apt. 312, Kimberly, WI 54136. There will be no service for Charlie. He was laid to rest up at Medford, WI, where Charlie was raised.

I have received an email from Denece Ellis, our Blue Cross/Blue Shield Representative, with a schedule for virtual visits to find out the changes in store for our insurance for the coming season. I will be enclosing this schedule with our newsletter so if anyone is interested you can partake. These meetings are held on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, at three different times each day and they last an hour. You will be able to ask questions from what it states.

Once again, I am going to remind you of your duty and or your right to vote. Since the election in November is before our next newsletter, I want to ask you all to vote in our presidential election. If you don't vote, you will have no right to complain about election results. For me, I will be voting for the person I feel is the best qualified to lead our country for the next 4 years. Each of you will have to make up your mind about this same thing. By all means be sure to

vote. I am not going to tell you one way or the other, but please vote. Not voting means you don't care and right now is not the time for that attitude. Unless you really don't care what kind of life we will have or how our country will go on or fail, PLEASE GET OUT AND VOTE ON NOVEMBER 3RD.

Also, don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour on November 1st. Day light savings time goes away that day.

The national election results and for our region of NARFE are that everything remains the same as far as officers go.

Unless this Covid-19 start to go down an extreme amount there will probably not be a meeting in November either. We would also have to find a place to meet and then would have to have an idea of how many people would want to risk coming out to attend a meeting. I know we are all tired of being cooped up, but how brave are we? If we have avoided Covid-19 so far, do we want to chance a meeting or not. Please let me hear from you one way or the other. My phone number is 920-209-9978.

My email addresses are lhb0922@aol.com or lhb092277@gmail.com.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!



FROM YOUR CHAPTER OFFICERS!



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Federal Employee Program

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FEDERAL EMPLOYEE PROGRAM NARFE OPEN SEASON CALL

NARFE Open Season Events

Open Season November 9, 2020 through December 14, 2020

Great news! We are pleased to offer a monthly calendar of virtual events. These calls will provide you with 2021 Blue Cross and Shield Benefit changes. You can call in and your questions will be answered by your local Wisconsin Team! At the end of each presentation.

October 2020				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1	2
5 2021 Benefit Changes Presentation 866-692-3580 access code 171 641 4973 # Presentation Times: 10AM - 11AM 1PM - 2PM 3PM - 4PM	6	7 2021 Benefit Changes Presentation 866-692-3580 access code 171 702 3932 # Presentation Times: 10AM - 11AM 1PM - 2PM 3PM - 4PM	8	9 2021 Benefit Changes Presentation 866-692-3580 access code 171 469 9327 # Presentation Times: 10AM - 11AM 1PM - 1PM 3PM - 4PM
12 2021 Benefit Changes Presentation 866-692-3580 access code 171 641 4973 # Presentation Times: 10AM - 11AM 1PM - 2PM 3PM - 4PM	13	14 2021 Benefit Changes Presentation 866-692-3580 access code 171 702 3932 # Presentation Times: 10AM - 11AM 1PM - 2PM 3PM - 4PM	15	16 2021 Benefit Changes Presentation 866-692-3580 access code 171 469 9327 # Presentation Times: 10AM - 11AM 1PM - 1PM 3PM - 4PM
19 2021 Benefit Changes Presentation 866-692-3580 access code 171 641 4973 # Presentation Times: 10AM - 11AM 1PM - 2PM 3PM - 4PM	20	21 2021 Benefit Changes Presentation 866-692-3580 access code 171 702 3932 # Presentation Times: 10AM - 11AM 1PM - 2PM 3PM - 4PM	22	23 2021 Benefit Changes Presentation 866-692-3580 access code 171 469 9327 # Presentation Times: 10AM - 11AM 1PM - 1PM 3PM - 4PM
26 2021 Benefit Changes Presentation 866-692-3580 access code 171 641 4973 # Presentation Times: 10AM - 11AM 1PM - 2PM 3PM - 4PM	27	28 2021 Benefit Changes Presentation 866-692-3580 access code 171 702 3932 # Presentation Times: 10AM - 11AM 1PM - 2PM 3PM - 4PM	29	30 2021 Benefit Changes Presentation 866-692-3580 access code 171 469 9327 # Presentation Times: 10AM - 11AM 1PM - 1PM 3PM - 4PM

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