



FEDERAL BENEFITS EXPERTS

MADISON
WISCONSIN

CHAPTER 120

NEWS

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PRESIDENTS LETTER

Linda Kustka

Season's Greetings! How do you respond to this greeting? I have to admit that some past years I've been a bit like

Scrooge and want to say "Humbug!" This year, like no other December that we, our state and country, have faced seems like the time to embrace what we can and should celebrate. I'm noticing that outdoor holiday lights in my neighborhood are up and lit earlier than usual (3rd week in November). I'm interpreting this as a joyous sign of "We're still here to celebrate. This virus isn't going to conquer the joy of life."

Our local NARFE chapter will be celebrating in the same spirit at our Dec. 11 noon meeting. We'll again use Zoom to wish each other a Happy Holiday and New Year while doing business. Let's use the before meeting time and chat feature to think about and share "How has the virus time off been a benefit to you?"

The virus has caused us to rethink how we do things. I'm involved with planning two Spring events: a 4-H arts fundraiser and UW Madison class reunion. This year, both organizations are excited about reaching many more people as the events are moved to virtual experiences. There are recent studies reporting that people working from home have higher productivity than those in the office.

While we have hope for 2021 with vaccines providing a healthier world, let's celebrate what we've been able to do this year! I wish you and your loved ones a healthy 2020 Holiday Season!

CHAPTER 120 SPREADS HOLIDAY SPIRIT

At our October meeting, participants voted to replace our member gifts to Waunakee Manor, funds for December entertainment program and poinsettia prizes with actions fitting the holiday spirit in Covid-19 times. We voted to donate \$400 for Waunakee Manor resident gifts. Also, in recognition of their service, \$400 in Rex's Innkeeper Gift Cards will be given to Waunakee Manor staff.

Members often give extra cash for Alzheimer's Research when attending the December meeting. You can continue that tradition with a check made payable to NARFE Alzheimer's Research. Our treasurer Kathy Losby will forward any such contributions if sent to her at 542 Charles Lane, Madison WI 53711.

CHAPTER 120 BY-LAW CHANGES

The proposed By-Law changes, introduced at the October meeting, give us the flexibility of doing business and electing officers via virtual settings. A copy of what will be voted at our Dec. 11 meeting will be emailed to those registering. If you'd like a copy and will be unable to attend, contact Linda Kustka at linda.kustka@wisc.edu

SUNSHINE REPORT

Veronica Guski

Hello Everybody,

A few deaths to report:

William Dougherty passed away on 10/9/20. Bill worked for the U.S. Government in Washington D.C. for 22 years.

Edwin Addison passed away on 11/15/20. He worked for the National Weather Service, specializing in agricultural meteorology. He was Meteorologist in Charge of South-Central Wisconsin at Truax Field in Madison for 19 years. You may recall his weather reporting on local television wearing his signature bowtie.

Gale L. VandeBerg passed away on 11/16/20 at age 100! Gale was the Dean and State Director of the Cooperative Extension Service and Assistant Chancellor of UWEX. Gale was also active in state and local affairs, serving as PTA president, on the board of the Madison Methodist Hospital, show-chair for the Badger State Dahlia Society and served several years as the Chair of the Governor's State Rural Development Committee. (just to name of few of his accomplishments.) In retirement he published 8 books and scores of poems. He also enjoyed selling his flowers and garden product at the Farmers' Market on the Capitol Square.

There is a light at the end of this dark tunnel we have been in, so everybody please continue to stay safe until we meet again.

MADISON CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

Myrna & Dobbin McNatt

The Federation Activity Report for Sep. 21-Nov. 18 lists one new member for our chapter, Joe Conlin, of Columbus, WI. Unfortunately, 8 members were dropped for nonrenewal. They

have been contacted. One new prospective member has also been contacted.

SERVICE OFFICER REPORT

Dobbin McNatt

As I have said before, the most important document for the families of federal employees and retirees to fill out is the NARFE report, "Be Prepared for Life's Events-What Your Survivors Should Know." The purpose of this guide is to help organize your personal and financial information in one location for your survivors. The most important item in that document is your Claim Number (CSA or CSF). You will need this number if you contact OPM. Get your copy of the above document from NARFE Headquarters, 1-800-456-8410, Option 2. Or print it off from the NARFE website. If all else fails, call me 608-831-5759.

MODULATIONS

Editor's Musings

In music, modulation means changing from one tonality to another by regular melodic or chord succession. In government, while the conductor or score change, the musicians and their instruments (most of the federal workforce) play on.

Could we imagine a guitar duet (or duel) featuring former White House Counsel Don McGahn (who played lead guitar for an act called Scott's New Band) along with incoming Secretary of State Tony Blinken (who plays guitar in the band ABlinken)?

An outgoing administration sometimes gives its political appointees positions with civil service protection to keep them from being fired by the new administration (known as "burrowing"). Stay tuned. Let's hope for harmony.



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Tom Miller

The election is over, well almost! On January 3, 2021, the 117th Congress will meet and begin a new two-year legislative session. This means all bills introduced but not passed by the end of the 116th Congress must be reintroduced. The Presidential Inauguration will take place on January 20, 2021. After that event, we'll have a clearer idea on the administration's legislative and fiscal priorities.

In the meantime, the Senate and House of Representatives have some important work to conclude during the lame duck session before New Years. Their main item of business is to fund the government for FY 2021, either through another continuing resolution (CR) or an omnibus bill. The current CR expires on December 11, 2020. Both houses need to agree to and pass a bill that goes to the President for his signature before midnight of that date. If there is a delay in this process, a full or partial government shutdown is possible before the holidays. If this should happen, please contact your Members of Congress to voice your concerns especially for current employees subject to furlough during a shutdown.

There is a chance that some of the bills of interest to NARFE members may be considered during the lame duck session. A list of these bills is found on pages 11-13 in the December 2020 issue of the NARFE Magazine. Many of the bills are familiar to NARFE members; postal reform, GPO/WEP, COLA, and the pay raise for current federal employees. NARFE's Legislative Action Center at www.narfe.org has draft messages that can be sent to Members of Congress. Your voice counts! Use it to advocate to preserve and improve our earned benefits.

NARFE National Headquarters has announced that LEGcon21, the legislative training conference, will be held in Washington, DC June 21-23, 2021. This will coincide with NARFE's Centennial Gala on June 21. The format for the

conference is still under consideration with preference that it be in person. However, the format will depend on the status of the pandemic as the date draws closer. There is likely to be a virtual option for both events. With that said, I've been the Chapter 120 Legislative Liaison for the past six years. I've enjoyed my time keeping track of legislation, encouraging your advocacy for NARFE legislative priorities, writing articles for the newsletter, and answering your questions. I'm offering the opportunity for another chapter member to take on this important role. I will provide support and advice to anyone interested in assuming this advocacy position. If you are interested please contact me or Linda Kustka, Chapter 120 President.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Miller, Chapter 120 Legislative Liaison
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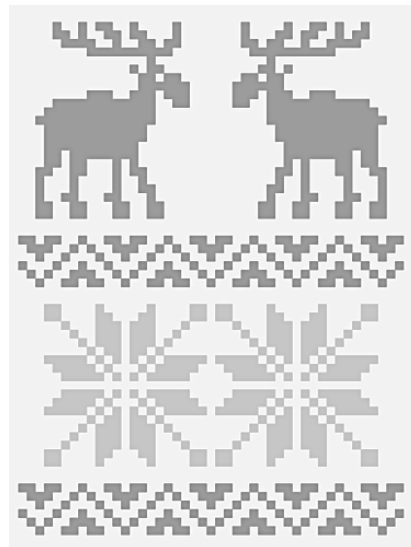
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Let's cheer one another at the
DECEMBER 11 NARFE MEETING

Our December 11 meeting features officer installation, adoption of revised by-laws, and discussion for 2021 meetings. We need to decide if we should continue to meet via Zoom in February and April or take a break. Virtual meetings would provide the opportunity for speakers from a distance to bring programs. You are encouraged to wear fun holiday gear and enjoy your favorite food and beverage.

We'll meet by Zoom. **Register by contacting Kathy Losby by Monday, Dec. 7 at tkmlosby@sbcglobal.net** You will then be sent connection information to participate via phone, computer/tablet.



Do you need to change your address, telephone 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".
Go to www.narfe.org, log in and click on "Update My Record" or Call (toll free) 1-800-456-8410 or E-mail memberrecords@narfe.org