



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

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DECEMBER 2020

FROM PRESIDENT MERLIN SANDERFOOT

“White House drops an F Bomb on the Career Civil Service” - latest headline from FedSmith.com! The White House issued an Executive Order on Oct 21 creating a new “Schedule F” category of excepted service positions. These new jobs could replace all career civil service positions “of a confidential, policy-determining, policymaking, or policy-advocating character.” Such positions would “provide agency heads with additional flexibility to assess prospective appointees without the limitations imposed by competitive service selection procedures.” The aforementioned is known as Executive Order 13957. FedSmith.com goes on to say, “the Order does not appear to have gone through normal rule-making processes. Sources tell me that it was driven by political appointees and that many career employees in the Office of Management and Budget and the office of Personnel Management believe it deeply flawed.” The article goes on to say, “Schedule F appointments would last

beyond the Administration that appoints them. A new Administration could inherit hundreds or even thousands prior Administration appointees. An Administration that wants its policymaking to continue beyond its term, or that simply wants to gum up the works for an incoming Administration, would have an effective tool to do it. It could also affect current career employees by moving them from jobs with civil service protections to at-will employment. How many jobs would Schedule F affect? There is no good answer in the documents that were published, but the number could grow to tens or even hundreds of thousands, according to FedSmith.com. NARFE is asking you to tell your Legislators to block the Politicization of Federal Jobs. Civil service rules ensure federal employees are hired or fired based on their competence for the job, or lack thereof, and not their political connections, or lack thereof. The rules protect employees from being removed for choosing adherence to the Constitution, laws and professional

standards over politically motivated actions or perceived allegiance to a political party.

And, in other news, think about the 2021 Federation Convention in Tomah, May 3 – 5. NARFE will also be celebrating its 100 year anniversary. The Christmas party will happen, just when will depend on COVID, still have holiday tin of cookies from last year that expired 19July2020, which was supposed to have been an raffle gift. Might present it to Jerry, He's like Mikey, he'll eat anything

FROM TOM BUSS, LEGISLATIVE OFFICER

Our monthly retirement will increase 1.3% starting January 4, 2021. You can see what that new amount will be on your monthly statement which can be accessed at www.servicesonline.opm. If you get a military retirement, you can also see what that monthly amount will be by going to www.mypay.ddfas.mil.

**FROM ROY ROGERS,
NARFE CHAPTER 437 CHAPLAIN**

The celebration of Christmas draws near, and with this Virus keeping us home, this will sure be an odd reminder that Christ was born to save us all. As Chaplain, I would like us to remember all the love our Savior gives us every day of our lives.

I became Chaplain on February 21, 2005 when we met at the Columbus Club on Richmond Street. We have made, and lost, many friends over the years since then. Many Prayers have been said, both at our meetings, and at the many State meetings we have held here in Appleton, and around the State. God has held His hand on our

backs for all our lives, and let us Pray we will find His home once we die.

It is my hope that we all survive this Virus – but we must look forward with hope – not defeat. God bless us all in 2021 and beyond.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

ROSALIE NATROP JANUARY 4TH

DENNIS JOHNSON JANUARY 12TH

REG VAN DE HEY JANUARY 12TH

TOM BOOTZ JANUARY 12TH

VAUGN BURTON JANUARY 12TH

AL MITCHELL JANUARY 21ST

ED JOHANEK JANUARY 29TH

CALVIN BELLMORE FEBRUARY 1ST

WILLIAM BUSS FEBRUARY 21ST

DON BENSON FEBRUARY 27TH

LEE ADAMSKI MARCH 27TH

GEORGE ROSENOW APRIL 7TH

HAROLD MICKE APRIL 9TH

That is all the Birthdays I have for this period of time, and there are no Anniversaries that I am aware of. If I have missed someone, please let me know.

FROM THE DESK OF LEE BENNER

Well, another month has passed and here we are almost to the end of 2020. Not that I am unhappy about 2020 almost being gone, I can't wait for this pandemic to be behind us. I hope and pray that we will have a much more positive year in 2021. I know

we are all in the same shoes as far as being locked up and trying to stay well. The days seem to be longer and the darkness seems to come way too soon. I find myself being much more moody than usual. I have never liked the long darkness hours of the winter and I think along with the confinement, it seems much longer. Oh well, I guess I should be thankful for having been spared the Covid-19 thus far. My brother who had the disease, just finally got back home from another 3 weeks plus in the hospital and rehab center because of more complications from the disease. For those who have had Covid-19, the effects are very different from person to person. So far I have had my brother, two of his daughter, two of his son-in-laws, one of my son-in-laws, and my youngest son who have had Covid-19. The only one who was really sick and is still fighting the after effects is my brother. I pray everyday that no one else I know will get the disease.

Now on to the next topic of concern, only a total of 5 people responded to the request for being in favor of the Christmas party on December 21st, so, Merlin and I have decided to postpone any further meetings until this Covid-19 thing starts to fade or that the vaccine will be available for all who feel they want to get it. We just could not bring ourselves to be responsible for having a meeting and take a chance that everything would be okay. Calling a meeting for our group, with most of us being more elderly and many with immune factors and/or other health factors, would be beyond our feeling safe about it. We sincerely hope we aren't going to upset too many people. We pray that we all live through this and come out on the positive end of it all.

This newsletter will be our last until we feel it is again safe to have a meeting. So until such time as that may be, don't anticipate another newsletter until the counts for Covid-19 start to come down. As your present officers, we hope you all will agree with our decision. God Bless and protect all of you until we can safely be together again. Just as a side note, this will be the first Christmas that I will not have any of my family home for Christmas. They all feel it will be safer to not get together because they all work jobs in the public sector and have had to quarantine at times because someone they work with has been exposed to Covid-19 and had come to work not knowing they were exposed. Please be careful and if you are not feeling well, please stay at home.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OF
YOU!**



**FROM YOUR CHAPTWER
OFFICERS**

If anyone has questions, please contact either Merlin Sanderfoot or Lee Benner. Our contact information is at the top of this newsletter. Otherwise, we hope you are all staying safe and well. Until we can safely meet again, please keep up to NARFE by reading your NARFE Magazine. If anyone knows of anyone who is or has been sick, please let our officers know.

Also, as you all know, we are in need of several chapter officers to keep our chapter moving forward. We need a President, Secretary, Treasurer, and an Alzheimer's Chairman. If anyone is interested in helping out, please let one of the officers know. Without officers we will find ourselves where seven other state chapters have been forced to go, GONE.

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**OUR NEXT REGULAR MEETING WILL BE ON ?????? ,
AND WILL BE AT ??????????
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.
THANK YOU!**