

<i>Volume XXVIII</i>	<i>Issue 01</i>	<i>January-March 2021</i>
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**WELCOME TO 2021, NARFE CHAPTER #371 IS BACK, WE HOPE YOU ARE TOO.**

## PANDEMIC UPDATE:

It appears that the pandemic is still with us, our Chapter Board made a decision to cancel our meetings for January and February and schedule meetings beginning in March, to give each of us the opportunity to get the Covid-19 vaccine which is now available for all of us in the 1-B group in the West Central area of Wisconsin.

## MEETINGS SCHEDULED:

**We are hoping that you all may feel safe and comfortable in attending our meetings again. We will try and have some interesting speakers as well, in addition to our business at hand. We do miss seeing and talking with each of you and getting together again as a group.**

**Our March 24<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held at noon, at the American Legion, 634 Water St., in Eau Claire.**

**Our April 28<sup>th</sup> meeting will also be held at noon, at the American Legion in Eau Claire.**

**Our May 26<sup>th</sup> meeting will also be held at the Legion.**

**Advanced Registration** is necessary for meal planning and set-up purposes. All of our meetings are open to active and retired federal employees, their spouse or guest. We ask that you call me or email me at 715-874-6708 or [chipval@wwt.net](mailto:chipval@wwt.net), at least 4 days before the scheduled meeting. THANKS. *Peggy*

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER: *Mark Schmitt*

Happy New Year! Hopefully we will get back to some type of normality within the next 6 months. With the vaccine starting to be administered to the first category of people. I am hopeful we will all have access to the vaccine within the next 3 – 6 months. I never thought that things would get this bad in this Country. We need to continue to stay safe and wear masks until this pandemic is over. This is the first time in over 20 years, we will not be going to Florida this January. I was not happy about It, but it is better to be cold than sick.

I did attend the Federation Board Zoom meeting on January 5<sup>th</sup> and they did make some changes in the upcoming Convention in May. The Convention/Conference was postponed until Oct/Nov when hopefully, we can have an in-person Conference. They will be checking with the Region 4 VP if our elections can be postponed until then.

Alzheimer's Research donations have continued to come in and as a Federation the giving is down somewhat, but no Chapters are meeting in person so I think we are continuing

to do well and hopefully we will get back to normal soon. Last fiscal year, Wisconsin donated \$4,215.15. This was from 7-1-2019 till 6-30-2020.

For a non-Convention year, that was pretty good since very little came in from March till June. Nationally we are at \$13,663.456.34 as of November 30<sup>th</sup> 2020. Our Chapter also gave \$11,254.00 to the WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S, this is up substantially from previous years. It sets the bar pretty high for coming years. Thank you for your donations!

Stay safe and hopefully we will again be able to meet when it is safe again!

## TREASURER'S REPORT: *Kathy Pospishil*

### December 2020

\$ 2404.02 December Start  
 \$ 146.24 December Receipts  
 \$ 110.37 December Expenses  
 \$ 2439.89 December End

### 2020 Totals

\$ 1565.76 Beginning of year  
 \$ 3094.42 Total Receipts  
 \$ 2220.29 Total Expenses  
 \$ 2439.89 Total End of Year

## SERVICE OFFICER/DEATHS: *Bill Michels*

**Mark S. Litka**, 69, of Eau Claire passed away on 12-21-2020. Mark was born and grew up in Milwaukee, graduated from UW Madison (1975) with a BS in Agriculture. He went to work at USDA in New Orleans as a grain inspector and came back to WI in 1978 where he transferred to FmHA as a Loan Officer, which was later merged (in 1994) into Farm Service Agency (FSA) as a Farm Loan Manager in the Chippewa County Office, until his retirement in, 2008. He joined NARFE in June 2008. His primary hobbies were fishing for walleye, gardening, New Orleans cuisine, and watching or attending UW-Madison football games.

He is survived by his wife Beverly, his mother Eileen, his many brothers, sisters, and many extended family members and friends. He was preceded in death by his father Raymond and step daughter Hannah.

**Shirley M. Robarge**, age 85, passed away on January 18<sup>th</sup>. She was the wife of Chapter Member Harold Robarge of Eau Claire. Harold often helps prepare the lunches we enjoy at our Chapter meetings at the American Legion.

Chapter #371 extends our sincere sympathies to both the Litka and Robarge families.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

### NARFE DUES INCREASE STARTING IN 2021:

On page 43 of your Jan/Feb NARFE magazine, your annual dues will increase to \$48 per year for all members. They are also asking if a new member wants to get a one-year FREE Chapter membership. (Our Chapter Dues are \$10.00 per year and includes our monthly Chapter Newsletters.) The amount of our Chapter Dues can only be established by our Chapter By-Laws which are established by and approved by the vote of each member at an annual meeting of its' members.

This is a massive undertaking by NARFE, we shall see how this works out. Our Chapter has many members who use "D/W". When a print-out is available, we should see a slight increase in dues, this dues increase should keep NARFE continuing for many years to come.

We shall see you all in March, God willing, and the "creeks" don't rise.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS IN MONTHS OF JANUARY-MARCH

#### JANUARY:

Galen C. Aase, David J. Duellman, Barbara M. Dull, Catherine A. Goebel, Carol A. Grant, Eugene E. Hanson, Mary C. Harmon, John J. Hebert, Richard Hollom, Luann F. Laliberty, Roger E. Luft, Larry Natzke, Marlin M. Plank, Steven J. Price, Ione B. Reckner, Helen P. Sadee, Stephen A. Taschner, Odile A. Toraason, Alane M. Wick.

#### FEBRUARY:

Jeanne M. Ciolkosz, Rosemary F. Durocher, Ray L. Henning, Patricia A. Henry, Mary A. Hensley, Margaret A. Johnson, Ken Kolbe, John E. Manka, Debbie Nichols, Ron Niemann, Luanne E. Rehse, Roger H. Rihn, Mark J. Schmitt, Barry J. Schultz, Charles G. Southworth, Becky J. Thompson, Jerry L. Thompson, Dale Weibel.

#### MARCH:

Linda M. Gabriel, Dennis F. Huber, Barbara E. Laatsch, Isabelle M. Moe, Shirley A. Porrazzo, Pamela L. Quarberg, Jean L. Simpson, Paul P. Vandenmeerendonk, Jim Yotter.

**HEALTH DEPARTMENTS-CLINICS SETTING UP COVID-19 VACCINES FOR GROUP 1B- 65 plus-Seniors.** Scheduling is taking place now; vaccinations started on Jan 25<sup>th</sup>. There are approximately 700,000 individual vaccines available. All 10 Chapter Counties are included, plus Barron, Clark, and Jackson. You are encouraged to call your local County Health Department and or Hospital/Clinic in your area first, about getting scheduled closer to home.

There is no statewide wait list or sign-up for the vaccine. Instead, health officials urged people 65 and older to check with the place where they normally get a flu shot; their doctor's office or clinic; their local or tribal health department; or their pharmacy. Chippewa Valley Hospitals and health departments announced their preferred method to set up vaccine appointments.

In the Eau Claire/Chippewa Area, MAYO patients will be contacted by letter from MAYO. MARSHFIELD CLINIC SYSTEM, call 1-877-998-0880; HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital/Prevea Health Svs., call 1-833-344-4373. This vaccine will have a second shot about 3-4 weeks later, you will receive a time and date when you get the first vaccine.

### March 14<sup>th</sup> daylight savings time begins!



**St. Patrick's Day!** Although the holiday originally started as a Christian feast day celebrating the life of St. Patrick and the spreading of Christianity to Ireland, today, it is a day of revelry and a celebration of all things Irish.

**Don't forget to wear green!**



*To contact our elected officials:*

*Senator Ron Johnson, 328 Hart Senate Office, WDC 20510, phone 202-224-5323, FAX 202-228-6965, email: [ron\\_johnson@ronjohnson.senate.gov](mailto:ron_johnson@ronjohnson.senate.gov);*

*Senator Tammy Baldwin, 709 Hart Senate Office Building, WDC 20510 phone 202-224-5653, email: [Tammy\\_baldwin@Baldwin.senate.gov](mailto:Tammy_baldwin@Baldwin.senate.gov);*

*Congressman Ron Kind, 1502 Longworth HOB, WDC 20515, phone 202-225-5506 Fax 202-225-5739; email: [ronkind@mail.house.gov](mailto:ronkind@mail.house.gov);*

*Congressman Thomas Tiffany, 1714 Longworth HOB, WDC 20515, phone 202-225-3365; email: [tomtiffany@mail.house.gov](mailto:tomtiffany@mail.house.gov)*