



FEDERAL BENEFITS EXPERTS

NARFE CHAPTER 1025

The Golden Eagle Chapter NEWSLETTER

Vol 25 No 2

March, 2020

PRESIDENT



begin.

Spring will soon be here and I can hardly wait for warmer days and more daylight. I took a walk around my yard today and the weeds are already growing so soon the fun will begin.

Your NARFE Board has been very busy since Christmas planning the 2020 Federation Conference that will be held in Boise May 12, 13, and 14th. This Conference, in addition to being a great opportunity for networking and catching up with friends, is shaping up to be a very informative meeting with many interesting speakers and activities. I hope that many of you will plan to attend. The conference will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn Spectrum. The hotel is located at 7699 Spectrum St. Boise, Idaho. If you wish to make a reservation to stay at the hotel the phone number is 208-376-1000. When calling please mention you are with NARFE to ensure you take advantage the special rate. The registration form is included in this newsletter. I checked out their restaurant and the food tasted delicious. I am looking forward to enjoying our banquet.

I am sure most of you have heard that once again Congress is looking to cut our retirement benefits. Please contact your congressmen and

Let them know we strongly oppose any decreases in our benefits. I know National is always working for us but we must all do our part.

Don't forget our March meeting on the 13th at the Eagles lodge in Nampa. Lunch is at noon and the meeting starts at 12:30. I hope to see you there. *Jo Aguirre, Chapter #1025 President*

VICE PRESIDENT



Recent email from NARFE headquarters indicates the Association Management System (AMS) will soon be fully functional. The same email says the M-112 activity report will be functional also. I look forward to providing monthly chapter activity reports when this happens.

On-line AMS Officer Portal training will be available for all NARFE chapter officers; however, since the on-line training is only available during my working hours, I will not be able to receive this training. Hopefully I will be able to figure it out on my own, or I will contact one of my fellow officers for help.

Finally I thought the following statistics posted on the NARFE Officer Portal would be interesting:

Total Current Chapter Members: 262

Total National Members in Chapter Area: 339
Total Chapter + National Only Members: 601

Current Chapter Members Breakdown

1 Year: 77
2 Year: 30
3 Year: 40
Dues Withhold: 109
Life Members: 5
Honorary/Other: 1

I find it very interesting that there are over 600 NARFE members in our chapter area, but less than half of them (262) are local chapter members. At least they are contributing to the national cause. It would also be nice if a lot more of the 262 current chapter members attended the monthly NARFE meetings in Nampa. *Karl Stickel, Vice President/Membership Chair*

LEGISLATIVE



LEGISLATIVE

With the sixth annual reintroduction of the *Federal Adjustment of Income Rates (FAIR) Act* in the House of Representatives which calls for a 3.5% federal pay raise in 2021, many federal budget watchers are saying this legislation may set the mark for future conversations about federal pay.

The other side of this debate was issued to the public on February 10, 2020 when the President released the administration's FY 2021 budget request. It recommended a 1% across-the-board federal pay raise for civilian employees in 2021, while proposing a 3% pay bump for members of the military. It also recommended allowing agencies to spend an additional 1% of their salary budget on awards for high-performing employees or those with critical skillsets.

Also included in the administration's budget proposal are a series of familiar cuts and changes to civilian retirement benefits, which the White House has described as an attempt to bring federal benefits more closely in line with the private sector. These proposals include the following:

- An increase in federal employee contributions to the Federal Employee Retirement System of 1% each year so employees and agencies will pay an equal share toward their annuities;
- (2) An elimination of the cost-of-living adjustment for current and future FERS retirees;
- (3) A 0.5% cut to the COLA for Civil Service Retirement System participants of what the typical formula currently allows;
- (4) Basing future retirement benefits on the average of an employee's highest five years of salary instead of their highest three years of salary; and
- (5) An elimination of the FERS Special Retirement Supplement payments for employees who retire before age 62.

The provision of having employees and agencies each pay half the cost of retirement annuities would be phased in over several years, with individuals contributing an additional 1% of their salary each year. In addition to saving the government about \$2.2 billion in 2022 and a total of \$87.4 billion over the next 10 years, it would generally equalize the percentage of salary that civilian workers now pay toward their pension benefits since newer employees are paying a higher percentage than do those with seniority.

These retirement proposals have become old hat for the federal workforce. Fortunately, over the past four budget requests these retirement proposals have simply remained proposals.

The administration is also arguing the current federal retirement system does not service the 70,000 term employees who are hired to serve their agencies. So the president proposed expanding

defined contribution benefits for term employees through the Thrift Savings Plan instead of a defined benefit annuity. Of course, the administration is also reviving the recommendation to reduce the interest rate for the Thrift Savings Plan's G Fund, thus reducing both the projected rate of return to investors and the cost of the fund to the U.S. Treasury.

With the Senate leadership stating there will be limited budget negotiations this year, it is impossible to predict how these proposals will end.

NARFE-PAC 2020

During March, NARFE members will be bombarded by a flood of mailings and requests for donations to NARFE-PAC, the political action committee of our organization as the fund will be highlighted during this month. But why should you be interested in this PAC and make contributions to it?

The legislative advocacy conducted by NARFE during the first year of the 116th Congressional session (in 2019) was enhanced by the political access and visibility afforded our organization by funds furnished to congressional candidates and the various congressional political committees. That advocacy in defending the interests of federal retirees and employees resulted in several legislative accomplishments. Our focus was first placed on defeating proposals that threatened to cut billions from federal benefits, improving pay rates, enhancing benefits, guaranteeing federal back pay following a government shutdown, and protecting the integrity of the agency functions on which federal employees and retirees rely.

The latest contribution and disbursement information available at the time this is being written is for the first four quarters of the current administrative period, which is the 2019 calendar year. The cumulative donation report from our membership in Idaho is detailed as follows:

CY 2019

LOCATION CONTRIBUTORS AMOUNT SUSTAINERS

National-Only Members (Idaho)	56	\$1,901.00	0
0218 Coeur D Alene	6	415.00	1
0763 Idaho Falls	17	1,096.00	1
0992 Inland Empire, Moscow	7	725.00	1
1025 Golden Eagle, Nampa	45	3,063.00	5
1945 Selkirk, Sandpoint	4	110.00	0
1959 Twin Falls	6	180.00	0
1970 Clearwater	1	100.00	0
Totals (Chapter Members Only)	86	\$5,68.00	8

Two changes are shown in the above table. First, the National-Only NARFE members living in Idaho are now a significant factor in our NARFE-PAC participation. Second, two additional Chapter #1025 members became sustaining contributors to the fund. Everyone who made a donation to NARFE-PAC is to be thanked for their generosity.

For comparison with previous donation periods, in CY 2017, 47 Chapter #1025 members contributed \$2,802.00 with two sustainers signed up while in CY 2018, 27 Chapter #1025 members contributed \$3,187.00 with one new sustainer enrolled.

With regulations in place requiring reporting of political donations, it is now possible to see how organizations support a particular political party or individual politicians. The following data on political donations from the federal community are from the Center for Responsive Politics at OpenSecrets.org, except for the updated NARFE-PAC data that is from recent NARFE reports.

(1) The American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) is the largest federal employee union and donates the most money to political candidates, generally through a PAC. In the 2019-2020 election cycle, AFGE has donated \$1,231,446 to candidates for elected office; of this amount 97.9% went to Democrats and liberal groups while 2.1% went to Republicans. AFGE's PAC has donated \$320,500, mostly going to candidates running for House seats.

(2) OpenSecrets.org displays NARFE as a public sector union and states it is the second largest source of donations among federal employee “unions” (excluding the Postal Service unions). During CY 2019 NARFE-PAC disbursed \$336,000 to candidates in amounts ranging from \$1,000 to \$8,500; \$120,000 to non-candidate party committees and PAC’s for annual dues; and \$160,000 to the Leadership PACs of members of Congress from both parties who sit on committees that deal with federal budgets and agencies.

(3) The National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU) is an active federal employee union that has contributed \$137,679 so far in the current election cycle, with their largest donations of \$5,000 each to Steny Hoyer (D-MD) and Mark Warner (D-VA), important members within the DC area.

If the legislative accomplishments achieved by NARFE in the pass year are important to you and/or you want to see further successes in protecting your federal benefits, please consider making a donation to NARFE-PAC. Better yet, please consider making an additional donation this year or become a sustaining contributor to the fund.

REMINDER: NARFE-PAC will not be featured at our March chapter meeting as mentioned above but it is intended to be highlighted during our April meeting. What this does is present you with at least two opportunities to consider making a contribution and/or becoming a sustaining donor to NARFE-PAC! *RuthAnn Smith, Chapter 1025 Legislative Chair and ID Federation NARFE-PAC Coordinator*

Senator Mike Crapo	208-334-1776
Representative Russ Fulcher	208-888-3188
Senator Jim Risch	208-342-7985
Representative Mike Simpson	208-334-1953

March 8 Daylight Savings Time Begins

ALZHEIMER CHAIR



Our NARFE fundraising total is now \$13,478,454.78 as of 01/31/2020. We raised a total of \$74,881.00 in January 2020, which is UP \$9,386.74 from January 2019. This amount includes the Chapter totals raised by the states from the Walk to End Alzheimer's and The Longest Day. There were 72 NARFE Teams that participated in the Walks to End Alzheimer's this past year, which is outstanding and increased their amount by \$7,400 (11.02%). We have raised \$228,975.73 in the first seven months of FY 2020, yet lower compared to \$236,442.74 in FY 2019. Idaho NARFE Chapters have raised a total of \$3,156 in the same time period.

Wally reminds us that everyone needs to contact their Senators and Congressional Representatives concerning the bills (S.1728 & H.R.3113) that are before Congress; which introduced legislation to extend the availability of the Alzheimer's semi postal stamp for another six years. More than 7.1 million semi postal stamps have been sold to raise more than \$953,000 for Alzheimer's Research at the National Institutes of Health. Let us encourage this legislative strategy by adding another six years for increasing awareness and financial support for the Alzheimer's cause. I think these stamps are worth the little amount of extra cost.

The annual National Institutes of Health Funding for Alzheimer's and Dementia Research reached \$2.8 Billion as of 12/20/2019. The Alzheimer's Association and Alzheimer's Impact Movement (AIM) are deeply grateful for the bipartisan support and leadership resulting in a \$350 million increase for Alzheimer's and Dementia Research funding at the National Institutes for Health (NIH) signed into law on 12/20/2019. Additionally, the inclusion of \$10 million to implement the BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act (P.L. 115-406) is an important step toward acknowledging and addressing Alzheimer's as a widespread public health crisis. You can read this article at media@alz.org dated December 20, 2019.

You can also read "Researcher Add HIV/AIDS, Diabetes and Organ Transplant Drugs to the Medley of Approaches for Treating Alzheimer's Disease" at media@alz.org dated December 18,

2019. More than ever before, Alzheimer's researchers understand that a variety of approaches will be needed --- most likely used in combination --- for effective treatment of the disease.

REMINDER: Our ID Federation Conference is going to be held on May 12, 13, & 14, 2020 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Boise off of Cole and Overland. I was able to get Adrean Cavener, Executive Director, Greater Idaho Chapter of Alzheimer's Association to be one of speakers. And, hopefully, Wally (Region IX Alzheimer's Coordinator) and his wife, Vicki will receive authorization to attend our Conference. President Jo and others have been working hard on this Conference; therefore, come and support them.

For those who may not have heard; Dorothy Martindale passed away on February 7, 2020 in Gaston, OR. She moved to OR in October 2017 to reside near her stepson, Vernon and Janean Ferguson and four children of Gaston, OR. To sign the online guest book or to send a condolence to the family go to www.fuitenrosehovt.com. Cloverdale Funeral Home in Boise is in charge of the Burial in ID; but when I called them, they did not have any information as of today (2/19/2020).

THANKS AGAIN TO ALL OF YOU WHO CONTINUE TO HELP IN THE FIGHT AGAINST ALZHEIMER'S.

GRINS: The difference between the short and long income-tax forms is simple. If you use the short form, the Government gets your money. If you use the long form, your accountant gets your money. *Gen Boguslawski, Alzheimer's Coordinator*

SUNSHINE CHAIR

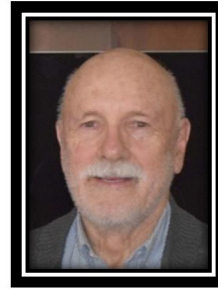


Looking forward to seeing everyone March 13; we will be playing Bingo.

Steve Whitaker will be having back surgery soon. Our prayers and thoughts will be with him.

Hope to see you all soon! *Katie Moore, Sunshine Chair*

TREASURER



The May 12 – 14 Conference is coming along nicely. As treasurer of the conference assigned with the task of keeping track of the money I have worked hard to ferret out issues that will cost us and identify sponsors that will support us. And for this event I am excited about the number of and the variety of sponsors; some for the first time ever. Costco (next door to the conference) has rented a table and will present their wares and make their presence known. Garden Plaza of Boise has taken out a full page program ad and has also rented a table. That's a first for them and they are anxious to engage in other activities with us as well. And we'll have the usual GEHA, Aetna, BCBS and United Healthcare and some others. Delta Dental will not be there but have sent a huge box of Dental Kits so we'll have plenty for everyone. We'll give them credit for that. Some others are still pending. Our event will feature a full service Audio Visual system funded by the many sponsors. BCBS is paying for our meeting room so remember that when you see the door prize table adorned with a BCBS tablecloth. We have not only maximized the quality of the event; we have minimized the cost to members. Lunch on Wednesday May 13 will be free to all attendees. We do still have a registration fee of \$ 20.00 but at our March 13 Chapter meeting I intend to propose we reimburse that for all our chapter members. That would mean our chapter members could attend at no cost to them. Also the cost for Katie's Nite Out is a very reasonable \$10 and the Banquet a very reasonable \$30. Come and converse with those you share concerns with and with our Regional and National officers. The Registration form is included herein. Fill it out now. *Richard Ryan, Chapter 1025 Treasurer; Conference 2020 Treasurer*

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For bona fide emergency

If you would like to attend any NARFE meeting but are unable to drive, please call Dick Ryan at (208) 463-4857. We will do our best to get you there; or if you know of any member who is ill and/or in need of cheer, or has passed on, please contact Katie Moore at (208) 466-1922

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REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION FORM
57TH IDAHO NARFE FEDERATION TRAINING CONFERENCE, BOISE
MAY 12-14, 2020
FEDERAL BENEFITS EXPERTS

Topics include Address by HQ Staff, Membership Recruitment Demonstration, Federal Benefits, Open Forum on Membership Retention

Hilton Garden Inn Boise Spectrum, 7699 West Spectrum St, Boise, ID 83709

Please make your own reservations for lodging by calling 208-376-1000 and identify yourself as NARFE members by using **NARFE** to get the negotiated rate of \$139 plus State and Local taxes. This price is **available until April 28, 2020**. Earlier is best. Reservations made after this date are subject to availability. Reservations and any changes to the reservations must be made through the hotel. Airport transportation is available, please ask when making reservations.

ITEM	REGISTRATION	# OF
	FEE	PEOPLE TOTAL
REGISTRATION FEE	\$20	_____ \$_____
All meals include water; coffee, iced tea, lemonade or soda; tax & gratuity.		
Tuesday, May 12, 2020		
KATIE'S NIGHT OUT – Garden Room East (beer & wine available at hotel bar)		
Baked Potato Bar (potatoes, butter, bacon, sour cream, chili, shredded cheese, hot chili, broccoli)	\$10	_____ \$_____
Wednesday, May 13, 2020		
LUNCHEON – Garden Room East		
Box Lunch (sandwich, chips)	Included	_____ \$ <u>0</u>
Vegetarian Lunch on Request	Included	_____ \$ <u>0</u>
BANQUET at 6:00 PM - Garden Room East (beer & wine available at hotel bar)		
London Broil (thinly sliced marinated sirloin beef topped with mushroom demi-glace)	\$30	_____ \$_____
Chicken Saltimbocca (juicy chicken breast stuffed with prosciutto, sage, gouda sautéed and served with a white wine sauce)	\$30	_____ \$_____
Sweet Sesame Salmon (8 oz boneless fish with a sweet sesame glaze)	\$30	_____ \$_____
Vegetarian Dinner Stuffed Pepper	\$30	_____ \$_____
<i>Please specify any special dietary needs and we will coordinate with the hotel.</i> _____		
TOTAL COST FOR MEALS AND REGISTRATION		\$_____

PLEASE PRINT

NAME _____ MEMBER NUMBER _____ OR GUEST _____

NAME _____ MEMBER NUMBER _____ OR GUEST _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

PHONE/CELL _____ EMERGENCY PHONE & NAME _____

EMAIL ADDRESS FOR RECEIPT _____

Please send check for Training Conference registration and meals made payable to: **IDNARFE2020**, in care of Kay Ryan, 4200 W South Slope Road, Emmett, ID 83617-8814, along with this form no later than **March 28, 2018**. You may also contact Kay at ryan3863@speedyquick.net or call 208-398-8993 if you have questions.



FEDERAL BENEFITS EXPERTS

NARFE Chapter #1025 Newsletter
National Active and Retired Federal Employees
P. O. Box 316
Nampa, ID 83653



March 17th - Happy St Patrick's Day!

Upcoming NARFE 1025 Meetings at Eagles Lodge, 118 11th Ave. N., Nampa, ID 12:00 Noon

March 13 Our special program this month will be BINGO!!

April 10 Program To Be Determined