



THE BEACON

INFORMING NARFE MEMBERS FROM THE MOUNTAINS TO THE COAST

January 2021 - March 2021

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association



WELCOME TO 2021!

To all NARFE members and your families here and around the world, I wish you a happy 2021! The past year has been memorable for the impact of COVID 19 on each and every one of us. I pray that vaccines and other remediations will minimize the fear, the isolation, the loss of friends and family, and all else we have felt in the past year. I pray that in 2021 we will get to meet again face-to-face.

2021 is a landmark year for the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association, also known as NARFE. NARFE has been protecting and improving the health care and retirement benefits of active and retired federal workers and their survivors for 100 years. It was founded by 14 Retired Federal workers who went to DC in 1921 to persuade public policy makers that federal workers should have retirement security in retirement as compensation for devoting their careers to public service. NARFE is the only association solely dedicated to the general welfare of the entire federal community, to include postal workers. It is the largest Federal employee/Retiree organization.

President John F. Kennedy in his Inaugural Address on January 20,1961 stated:

And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you — ask what you can do for your country...

Finally, whether you are citizens of America or citizens of the world, ask of us the same high standards of strength and sacrifice which we ask of you. With a good conscience our only sure reward, with history the final judge of our deeds, let us go forth to lead the land we love, asking His

blessing and His help, but knowing that here on earth God's work must truly be our own.

We who go forward in NARFE today are the recipients of the work and sacrifices of all those who went before us over the past 100 years. As we move forward into our second 100 years, we need a comparable commitment and willingness to sacrifice. We must work not only for ourselves, but also for the generation of active and retired federal employees who will come after us. As we have benefited from the efforts of those in the past, it is incumbent on us to pay it forward.

Join your fellow NARFE members protecting and improving the health care and retirement benefits of active and retired federal workers and their survivors. Be active in advocating to retain your rights and benefits. Be active in recruiting other federal employees to join NARFE to increase our strength and voice. Be active in communicating with and supporting your fellow members who no longer can get out or have significant illness.

So, fellow members of the North Carolina Federation of NARFE, to paraphrase John F. Kennedy's statement, "Ask not what NARFE can do for you - ask what you can do for NARFE." In closing, I wish peace, friendship, happiness, health, and all the very best for 2021 to you and your family.

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NARFE References

Toll-free Legislative Hotline (24 Hours) — (877) 217-8234 Legislative Action Center — www.narfe.org NARFE Toll-free — (800) 627-3994 NC NARFE Service Officer — (910) 619-0658

The Beacon

is published quarterly by the North Carolina Federation of the National Active & Retired Federal Employees Association. Federation Membership includes subscription to this newsletter via mail, email, and/or webposts.

2020 NARFE Balloting

L. Thomas Jennings Immediate Past President

• The Pandemic



The Pandemic and NCNARFE

Like many families, we prepare an annual Christmas or end-of-year letter to send to friends and family highlighting our experiences this year. In doing so recently, it became clear how much our lives have been impacted this year by the COVID-19 pandemic. We were forced to curtail travel and participation in various events and activities. We also postponed family visits.

We are facing record numbers of COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths from the surge since late autumn. Over 14.7 million Americans have tested positive and over 282,000 have died. We have all had to learn to do things differently, wear masks, maintain social distance, and avoid crowded situations. Despite the current heartbreak there is hope that effective vaccines will be available soon.

This situation has also greatly affected us in NARFE in North Carolina. We had expected to hold our regular in-person Federation Annual Meeting the second week of May. We made the decision to change this event to a virtual webinar and then learned that the hotel where we planned to meet closed for several months. We were able to put together our own successful program, with a streamlined agenda that completed the scheduled program in one day. Our number of participants grew significantly from those attending in person in 2019 and we received positive feedback from our attendees. At our November Federation Board Meeting, we voted again to hold our annual meeting virtually. It will take place as a **GoToMeeting Webinar** on **Wednesday, May 12, 2021**. You should have already received the first call letter with important details about this event.

Since the start of the pandemic, all our Federation Board Meetings have been virtual. We miss the camaraderie and opportunity to visit in person, but through these electronic meetings we have saved significant time and have eliminated all travel costs

In Area V, our chapters have also had to forego meeting in person, and members miss the opportunity to enjoy a meal out with the companionship of other members. The Intracoastal Chapter has started meeting again every other month at its previous location, the Elks Club in Calabash. In my chapter, Wilmington Chapter 337, we decided in the fall to begin holding virtual chapter meetings using Zoom. We recently held our November meeting with Patsy Ziegler, our Blue Cross/Blue Shield FEP Group Consultant, as our featured speaker. This meeting, as well as two previous ones, is now available on our Federation Website, www.ncnarfe.org. Meetings from the Durham and Raleigh Chapters are also available, and I encourage all members to visit the website and consider viewing one or more of these events. We owe many thanks to Henry Brattlie for his personal efforts in preparing the videos for presentation.

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Charles Talley NCNARFE Executive VP



Scammers and You

Watch Out! Scams Ahead!

NARFE continues to work to protect your benefits and you must work to protect your dollars from scammers. The Justice Department just convicted a group of crooks "Scamming Victims out of Millions of Dollars". Please read this article and learn that the United States Federal Agencies do not call and demand that you send money.

Hitesh Madhubhai Patel, aka Hitesh Hinglaj, was sentenced to 20 years in prison on charges of wire fraud conspiracy and general conspiracy to commit identification fraud, access device fraud, money laundering, and impersonation of a federal officer or employee. Patel was also ordered to pay restitution of \$8,970,396 to identified victims of his crimes.

The defendant defrauded vulnerable U.S. victims out of tens of

millions of dollars by spearheading a conspiracy whose members boldly impersonated federal government officials and preyed on victims' fears of adverse government action.

Transnational call center scams are complex cases to investigate and prosecute, but US agencies are up to the task. Many of these fraudsters prey on the most vulnerable from the perceived safety of foreign lands so we're not sorry to see him head to prison. His access to a phone is now greatly diminished. Across the globe, U.S. law enforcement is chasing and dismantling these schemes.

According to admissions in his plea agreement, Patel and his co-conspirators perpetrated a complex scheme in which employees from call centers in Ahmedabad, India, impersonated officials from the IRS and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), and engaged in other telephone call scams designed to defraud victims throughout the United States. U.S. victims were threatened with arrest, imprisonment, fines, or deportation if they did not pay alleged monies owed to the government. Those who fell victim were instructed how to provide payment, including by purchasing general purpose, reloadable (GPR) cards or wiring money. Upon payment, the call centers would immediately turn to a network of "runners" based in the United States to liquidate and launder the fraudulently

See Watch Out/Continued on page 3

obtained funds.

Patel corresponded by email and WhatsApp messaging frequently with his co-defendants to exchange credit card numbers, telephone scam scripts, and call center operations instructions. The scripts included IRS impersonation, USCIS impersonation, payday loan fraud, U.S. Government grant fraud, and debt collection fraud.

The indictment in this case, which was unsealed in October 2016, charged Patel and 60 other individuals and entities with general conspiracy, wire fraud conspiracy and money laundering conspiracy. A total of 24 domestic defendants associated with this transnational criminal scheme were previously convicted and sentenced to terms of imprisonment of up to 20 years. The defendants were also ordered to pay millions of dollars in victim restitution and money judgments and to forfeit seized assets. Some defendants were ordered to be deported based on their illegal immigration status, with another defendant having his U.S. citizenship revoked because of a separate conviction for immigration fraud. Charges remain pending for other India-based defendants. They are presumed innocent unless and until convicted through due process of law.

NARFE is vigilante to protect our benefits we must be vigilante to protect ourselves from scammers.

THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Dave Phillips NC NARFE Secretary



• Board Meeting Highlights

Highlights of the November 10, 2020 NCNARFE Executive Board Meeting

- **1.** The Executive Board of the NCNARFE met on November 10 using Zoom teleconferencing. A quorum was present.
- 2. Region X Vice President Bill Shackelford presented his report. Membership continues to be a concern. Retention is important but recruitment of new members is also a concern. NARFE Headquarters is preparing and updating digital resources to assist in recruitment and retention efforts. A survey is planned to allow Chapters to have more information on the National-Only members in their area. It will allow them to share information about upcoming activities in which they may wish to participate. Information about the Federal Employees Health Benefits has been posted on the NARFE website.
- **3.** Donna Shackelford, the Region X Alzheimer's Coordinator, reported that, as of the end of October, NARFE has donated \$13,615,468 of the \$14 million goal towards Alzheimer's Research. Chapters in North Carolina should submit all donations to Alzheimer's Research to Vivian Vair, NCNARFE Alzheimer's Coordinator, 620 E. Cannon Ave., Albemarle, NC 28001.
- **4.** President Henry Brattlie reported that several Chapter meetings that have been held virtually have been taped and are available on the NCNARFE.org and YouTube. The address to access the meetings on

YouTube are:

DURHAM 11-24-20 https://youtu.be/-Bm2vtrdtq4

WILMINGTON 11-5-20 https://youtu.be/bLI4buV7plQ

RALEIGH 11-3-20 https://youtu.be/tHISQnbhiQ8

President Brattlie and Carolyn London have prepared a 2-minute video that Blue Cross/Blue Shield and GEHA will be using in their virtual presentations to promote NARFE membership. President Brattlie is also preparing a generic NARFE video that can be used during the 2021 health fairs.

- **5.** Area Vice Presidents gave their quarterly reports. The Board approved the appointment of Immediate Past Present Tom Jennings as the Area V Vice President.
- **6.** National Legislative Officer The Board approved Robert Allen as the National Legislative Officer. The Board also approved David Baize as the Congressional District Leader (CDL) for NC Congressional District 10 and Tom Jennings for NC Congressional District 7. Congressional sponsors for HR 141 the Social Security Fairness Act (WEP/GPO Repeal Bill) are: Rep. G.K. Butterfield District 01, Rep. David Price District 04 and Rep. Alma Adams District 12.
- 7. The goal for NARFE-PAC for 2019 2020 was \$1.75 million with a goal of \$1.25 million to be disbursed. The actual year-to-date contribution received has been \$2 million with \$1,167,500 distributed. Sustainers have increased by 20%. The NARFE-PAC supported candidates Cal Cunningham and Patricia Tillman-Goodson

See Board Meeting Highlights/Continued on page 4

and Congressmen George Murphy – District 03 and David Price – District 04.

- **8.** Vivian Vair, the NCNARFE Alzheimer's Coordinator reported that since May 1 the total donated to Alzheimer's Research is \$6,167.96. Fifty-three members of the Durham Chapter donated \$4,425 to Alzheimer's Research because of a letter writing campaign to solicit donations for Alzheimer's Research. Vivian asked for anyone with suggestions for fund raising ideas to please contact her. Her email address is: <a href="wvvair@avair@
- 9. Robert Allen is serving as interim editor of The Beacon until an editor is recruited to take the place of Vilma Geisert.
- **10.** It was the consensus of the Board that, because of the tenuous nature of when it may be safe to meet face to face in the future, the NCNARFE Annual Meeting will be held using the webinar format again this year. The tentative date is Wednesday, May 12, 2021.
- 11. President Brattlie appointed a Revenue Generation Committee to be chaired by Executive Vice President Charles Talley. The committee's charge is evaluate ways and means of generating revenue for the Federation, such as advertisement in The Beacon, etc.
- 12. President Brattlie is in the process of developing a design for Chapter banners. Blue Cross/Blue Shield has donated \$1,500 to NCNARFE to support the cost and development of the banners. Each banner will have a common design but be Chapter-specific. Chapters will be able to purchase the banner for \$50 with the rest of the cost covered by the grant from Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Details are forthcoming.
- 13. The Board heard the Audit Committee report. The chairperson of the Committee was Deborah Germak, President of Piedmont Triad Chapter 0211. The members of the Audit Committee noted that all the actions of the Treasurer were consistent with the Federation Bylaws. The Committee had a few recommendations that will be considered.
- 14. Tom Jennings will head the Strategic Planning Committee.
- **15.** The Region X 2021 Conference in tentatively scheduled for September 14 16, 2021 in Frankfort, Kentucky.

FEDERATION TREASURER REPORT

Sam Crain NC Federation Treasurer

Happy New Year!



Happy New Year

Hopefully, 2021 will be better than 2020 was in regards to everyone's health. Also, we hope that our Chapters will be able to get back together so we can get to see everyone.

This is also the time of year when Chapter Treasurers are very busy. There are several things the Treasurers need to complete in the new year.

One is to complete and submit the 990-postcard to the IRS. This can only be done by going into the IRS website and submitting the report on line.

The second thing the Treasurers are required to do is complete the Per Capita Dues form and submit it to the Federation Treasurer by February 2021. The form can be found in this edition of **The Beacon** or online at www.ncnarfe.org and printing the form there. You can also complete the form before you print it so that it will have your chapter's information on it.

The third thing Treasurers need to do is have a yearly budget for the Chapter and make sure their Boards have approved it so you can implement it.

As you can see it is a very busy time for Chapter Treasurers. If any of you have questions about anyof these items, please either email me or call me at samcrainjr@aol.com or 828-246-5015.

North Carolina Federation - NARFE Find us on: El facebook.em/ncnarfe

@ https://www.facebook.com/ncnarfe

NARFE - NORT	H CAROLINA FEDEI	RATION	
FINANCIAL REP	ORT FOR FISCAL YE	AR 2021	
QUARTERS 1 and 2 from August 1, 2020 thru	November 30, 2020		
BEGINNING BALANCE ON HAND (ALL ACCTS.)			
CHECKING	MM		
\$46,137.92	\$21,032.98		\$67,170.90
Interest from Money Market	\$0.71		
INCOME:			
10% Funds from National Headquarters	\$5,870.26		
Per Capita from Chapters	\$0.00		
Funds for Ads in the Beacon	\$0.00		
Funds from Closing Chapters	\$1,215.51		
Funds donated for new Banners	\$1,500.00		
TOTAL INCOME			\$8,586.48
TOTAL TO BE ACCOUNTED FOR			\$75,757.38
EXPENSES:			
Mileage			
Meals			
Lodging			
Supplies/Services			
Postage			
New Banners Expenses			
2021 Annual Meeting Expenses			
Beacon Newspaper	\$1,341.51		
Insurance	\$100.00		
Membership Supplies			
Region X Conference			
10% Fund Expense			
CDL Reimbursement			
New Mbrs & Dues Withholding Rebates	\$65.00		
Badges for New Officers	\$144.30		
Ballot & Teller(Election Expenses)	\$11.25		
TOTAL EXPENSES			\$1,662.06
ENDING BALANCE ON HAND (ALL ACCTS.)			
CHECKING	MM		
\$53,061.63	\$21,033.69		\$74,095.32
TOTAL TO BE ACCOUNTED FOR			\$75,757.38
Signed Sam Crain, Treasurer	Date	11/30/20	



						NARFE - NO	RTH CAROL	INA FEDE	RATION					
					Expense Re	port for Quar	ters 1 and 2	2 from Aug	ust 1, 2020 th	ru November	30, 2020			
OFFICER	MILEAGE	MEALS	LODGING	SUPPLIES- COPIES	POSTAGE	2021 ANNUAL MEETING	REGION X CONFEREN CE	NEW MBR/DW PROJECT	NEWSPAPER	MISC	10% FUND EXP	TOTAL	2020/2021 BUDGET	BUDGET BALANCE
PRESIDENT												\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
EXECUTIVE VP												\$0.00	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00
SECRETARY												\$0.00	\$600.00	\$600.00
TREASURER												\$0.00	\$800.00	\$800.00
A1/2 VICE PRES												\$0.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
A 3 VICE PRES												\$0.00	\$950.00	\$950.00
A 4 VICE PRES												\$0.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
A 5 VICE PRES												\$0.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
A 6 VICE PRES												\$0.00	\$700.00	\$700.00
NAT LEG												\$0.00	\$700.00	\$700.00
NARFE/PAC												\$0.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
STATE LEG												\$0.00	\$700.00	\$700.00
MEMBERSHIP COR												\$0.00	\$600.00	\$600.00
PUBIC RELATIONS												\$0.00	\$400.00	\$400.00
SERVICE OFFICER												\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
ALZHEIMERS CO												\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
EDITOR												\$0.00	\$400.00	\$400.00
WEB SITE MASTER												\$0.00	\$800.00	\$800.00
PAST PRESIDENT												\$0.00	\$550.00	\$550.00
BALLOT & TELLER										\$11.25		\$11.25	\$1,700.00	\$1,688.75
MAILING BALLOTS												\$0.00	\$1,900.00	\$1,900.00
NEWSPAPER									\$1,341.51			\$1,341.51	\$6,000.00	\$4,658.49
INSURANCE										\$100.00		\$100.00	\$100.00	\$0.00
ANNUAL MEETING												\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
MEETING ROOM												\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
10% FUND EXP												\$0.00	\$400.00	\$400.00
MEMBERSHIP												\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
SPECIAL PROJECTS												\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
NEW MBR INCENT I						1		\$15.00				\$15.00	\$750.00	\$735.00
DW PROJECT								\$50.00				\$50.00	\$100.00	\$50.00
CDL Reimbursement												\$0.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Badges										\$144.30		\$144.30	\$145.00	\$0.70
MISCELLANEOUS												\$0.00	\$55.00	\$55.00
TOTALS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$65.00	\$1,341.51	\$255.55	\$0.00	\$1,662.06	\$24,000.00	\$22,337.94
												\$1,662.06		\$22,337.94

		Dues Voucher Chapte			
January	Feburary	March	Totals For 2020		
embers paid for: No. Per Capita	Members paid for: No. Per Capita	Members paid for: No. Per Capita	Members paid for: No. Per Capita Yr.		
Year Only 0 x 1	1 Year Only 0 x 1	1 Year Only 0 x 1	1 Year Only 0 x 1		
Years: 0 x 2	2 Years: 0 x 2	2 Years: 0 x 2	2 Years: 0 x 2		
Years: 0 x 3	3 Years: 0 x 3	3 Years: 0 x 3	3 Years: 0 x 3		Customize To Your Chapter
Total: 0	Total: 0	Total: 0	Total: 0		Make Updates & Changes Below in Red
April	May	June	1 Year Only 0 x \$2.50	1 Year Only Dues Rat	
embers paid for: No. Per Capita	Members paid for: No. Per Capita	Members paid for: No. Per Capita	2 Years: 0 x \$5.00	2 Years Dues Rate	\$5.00
rear Only 0 x 1	1 Year Only 0 x 1	1 Year Only 0 x 1	3 Years: 0 x \$7.50	3 Years Dues Rate	\$7.50
rears: 0 x 2	2 Years: 0 x 2	2 Years: 0 x 2	Total Due: \$0.00	o rearo bues reale	41.00
rears: 0 x 3	3 Years: 0 x 3	3 Years: 0 x 3	10011200. \$0.00		
Total: 0	Total: 0	Total: 0			
Tour.	Total.	Total.			
July	August	September	**VOUCHER**		
embers paid for: No. Per Capita	Members paid for: No. Per Capita	Members paid for: No. Per Capita	NC FEDERATION PER CAPITA DUES		
rear Only 0 x 1	1 Year Only 0 x 1	1 Year Only 0 x 1	CALENDAR YEAR 2020	CALENDAR YEAR	2020
Year Only 0 x 1	2 Years: 0 x 2	2 Years: 0 x 2	Chapter Number: ?Area Number: ?	Your Chapter Number:	2
Years: 0 x 3	3 Years: 0 x 3	3 Years: 0 x 3	Chapter Name:	Your Area Number:	2
Total: 0	Total: 0	Total: 0	?	Your Chapter Name:	2
Total.	Total. 0	Total. 0		Tour Onapter Name.	
October	November	December	Members paid for: No. Per Capita		
embers paid for: No. Per Capita	Members paid for: No. Per Capita	Members paid for: No. Per Capita	1 Year Only 0 x \$2.50		
Year Only 0 x 1	1 Year Only 0 x 1	1 Year Only 0 x 1	2 Years: 0 x \$5.00		
Years: 0 x 2	2 Years: 0 x 2	2 Years: 0 x 2	3 Years: 0 x \$7.50		
Years: 0 x 3	3 Years: 0 x 3	3 Years: 0 x 3	Total Due: \$0.00		
Total: 0	Total: 0	Total: 0	Please send in your check by January 20:	1	
			for the amount due, made payable to:		
			NC NARFE, along with a copy of the		
			voucher to:		
			Federation Treasurer	Federation Treasure	
			Sam E. Crain, Jr.	Name:	Sam E. Crain, Jr.
			290 Azalea Drive	Street Address:	290 Azalea Drive
			Maggie Valley, NC. 28751-7692	City, State, ZipCode:	Maggie Valley, NC. 28751-76
				Telephone:	(828) 246-5015
rections for filling out your	Chapter's Per Capita Dues Vo	ucher.		E-Mail:	samcrainjr@aol.com
You need to aguire a copy of both	vour chapters Current Year Monthly C	hapters Dues Activity Reports : (A-220)	and the Monthly Chapters Dues Advanced		
	2 months of the year your filing for.	. , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,			
First as a the A 000 are at 201 at 1		n the secondark and District the second	a in the Manush are noted for a set of the first		
			s in the Members paid for colum with the		
approperate number of members th	at paid for their Dues for 1, 2, or 3 year	s, as reflected on the report.			
Second use the W 101 report Sola	ect the approperate corresponding man	oth on the worksheet Add those sumbs	ers to your previously entered numbers.		
		es automaticaly taken out of their month			
i real Only. Note. These are you	i chapter members who have their due	a automatically taken out of their month	ny annuity payments by FIVIO.		
		avec the NO Federation for Dec Conite	Dues will be shown in the **VOUCHER**		
After filling out the worksheet for the	e entire vear the amount vour chapter.				

GREETINGS FROM THE CENTRAL PIEDMONT

Pat Brannin Area II Vice President

• A Special Christmas Wish!



WHAT DO I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS?

My family has a copy of a news article in a small town newspaper in GA, in which my mother, at about the age of 7, wrote what she wanted for Christmas (this would have been about 1926)—Bonbons for her two brothers and pencils for herself. Oh, how the world has

changed -- especially this year! With the corona virus continuing to spread, many were unable to spend the holidays with our families and extended families. So many have lost income and couldn't provide the simplest things for their children or family. So what I wanted this holiday season was to call friends and family, especially those I don't see or talk to very often, and to find ways to help those less fortunate, even if it was only donating money. Don't forget you can give to your favorite charity through the CFC campaign. Oh, and I wanted world peace!

There are so many religious and ethnic celebrations during this time that I won't take the time to list them all. But it does make us remember that despite our differences, we are all being thankful at this special time of the year.

Region X NEWS

William "Bill" Shackelford Region X Vice President



A NARFE Update

OVERALL MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

The overall membership level continues to decline. Through September 30, new members and reinstatements have accounted for a gain in membership of 7,763. However, voluntary cancellations, non-renewals, and deaths have totaled 21,426. At the end of the 2020 3rd Quarter, overall NARFE membership has dropped to 171,822. Region X membership as of October 1, 2020 is 21,961. We have 10,577 members in 114 Chapters and 11,384 National members.

Under the leadership of Dave Bowman, Senior Director of Membership Development at NARFE Headquarters (HQ), we want to bring new vision and renewed passion to our membership efforts. To help with this, NARFE HQ staff has evaluated the effectiveness of our current membership marketing practices, which have gone mostly unchanged in seven years. Everyone agrees that the need is to focus on recruitment. Retention is fine. The resolution that everyone can get involved is to concentrate on bringing in new members. Many Chapter members seem very reluctant to recruit, with a very few exceptions. Even with the membership drive incentive, fewer and fewer people are recruiting.

According to Bowman, the economic impact of the pandemic continued in the third quarter of 2020 as recruitment remained slow and renewals lagged. The Recruitment/Retention Team has been very active, however, working with the Communications Team to update the format of the non-member version of the Newsline, which now focuses on highlighting NARFE member benefits and the value of membership.

In response to ongoing concerns about the spread of COVID-19, and because many in-person opportunities to recruit have been canceled, NARFE HQ has developed digital resources that recruiters can use to safely participate in the Fall Membership Drive for the fourth quarter. The Membership Drive Resources webpage features a growing suite of tools (e-mail template, digital ad, video, and more) to help recruiters communicate the value of NARFE membership remotely.

Loss of members is a loss of revenue and it takes that revenue to keep NARFE open and completing its mission to protect our earned benefits. There is no alternative. Only NARFE. Not the Unions or the other Federal Employee Associations. Only NARFE.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL PROCESS

A suggestion of the Tennessee (TN) Federation pertaining to creating a new webinar or possibly an article in the narfe magazine that would provide clarity to all members about the membership renewal process was forwarded to NARFE HQ. The consensus of the TN Federation is that, while the NARFE membership renewal letter members receive in the mail seems clear, many individuals still find the process for renewing their NARFE membership to be mysterious.

Overall, the membership renewal process is not mystifying, but Chapter involvement & understanding of the process may help retention. In response to the TN suggestion, Dave Bowman agreed that an article or perhaps some **Frequently Asked Questions** (FAQs) posted on the website would be a great way to inform members about how our dues billing process works, when they should expect to hear from us, etc. Currently, NARFE staff is looking at making some changes to the timing of dues notices and some of the messaging, as well as a couple of other tweaks to the process internally.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

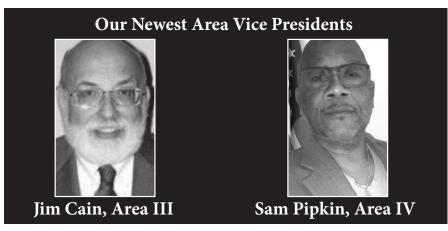
Throughout the pandemic, the best interests of the association and the staff have been the driver of all decisions about policies and procedures related to whether NARFE HQ is open and under what circumstances. It has been a long, twisty, sometimes steep road that our organization has been traveling together, going all the way back to March, and the virus surge shows no signs of slowing down.

Given continuing uncertainty about COVID vaccine availability to and acceptance by the general public, the teleworking program at NARFE HQ will be extended through the first quarter of 2021, remaining in place through March 31. Of course, if either the Commonwealth of Virginia and/or the City of Alexandria impose any further restrictions that affect non-essential businesses, the status of NARFE Headquarters may change. I will provide any updates as more information becomes available.

CHAPTER AND FEDERATION MEETINGS

NARFE HQ does not have an official position about holding meetings in person during the pandemic. Organizational guidance is that any meetings must be conducted in compliance with state and local restrictions. Inasmuch as attendance at any NARFE event is voluntary, members are urged to adhere to all safety guidelines issued and taking all precautions necessary to protect their own personal health. Additionally, since our organization has no control over the environment/conditions at the individual venues, each member is encouraged to decide whether to attend any NARFE event based on his/her own personal circumstances.

The decision to attend any NARFE event must be made by the individual member - - - <u>IT HAS TO BE YOUR CHOICE</u>. The key is for people not to feel pressured to attend when they really are uncomfortable.



Let's Welcome Jim and Sam

We have two new Area Vice Presidents, Jim Cain in Area III and Sam Pipkin in Area IV. Let's meet them!!

Holiday Greetings everyone. My name is Jim Cain and I am the recently appointed NARFE NC Region 4 Vice President. I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself, tell you a bit about my Federal Career, and how I got to this point.

I spent a total of 33 years as a government employee. 26 years were with the US Army, 8 years as a Commissioned Officer in Military Intelligence and 18 years as what the Army calls a totally cross-trained, multi-disciplined, civilian intelligence specialist. My specialty was human Intelligence collection overseas and during this time I served 4 years in Viet Nam, 4 years in Bangkok, Thailand, 2 years in Taipei, Taiwan, and 10 consecutive years in Germany. If I told you any more t I'd probably have to shoot you.

In 1991 I was selected as the only Department of the Army Civilian, DAC, to attend the National War College, the DOD's most senior training institution at Fort McNair in Washington, DC. Shortly after that I was chosen to attend Leadership in a Democratic Society at The Federal Executive Institute in Charlottesville, Virginia. I got my SES

position at the Bureau of Indian Affairs where I was the Director of Management and Administration for the 14,000 BIA employees and 623 Federally recognized American Indian Tribes and Alaska Native villages. Being a **member** of the White Earth or Mississippi Band of the **Minnesota Chippewa Tribe** (Ojibwa), this was a real honor.

I retired in June 1997 from Federal service and then worked for Computer Sciences Corporation for 10 years as a Business Systems Process Reengineer in their Federal Consulting Center.

Having been a member of NARFE for 10 years I volunteered to help in NC any way I could because I believe most Federal employees are proud of their careers doing a variety of needed jobs that many of their fellow citizens don't know about or appreciate. As the only organization representing retired Federal employees, I wanted to help alleviate as much of the misinformation and disinformation that the administration has been feeding the public about us as I could.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as I can once this virus has become recent history...Jim

Greetings, NCNARFE and Area IV members. I'm Sam Pipkin, your new Area IV Vice President. Lrt me tell you a bit about myself.

I was born in Dunn, North Carolina, but I grew up in Delaware. I joined the US Army and entered the Finance Corp 1976. I retired in 2008 with my last assignment at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, VA.

My first civilian job with the government was in the Army Budget Office at the Pentagon. My last civilian job before retiring in 2017 was with Joint Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg, NC. After a fishing trip to Virginia Beach, I was introduced to NARFE by Arlene Arthur. Shortly after reading several NARFE magazines, I joined and start attending the monthly meeting in Smithfield.



A Difference is Coming!

All, be on the lookout in upcoming editions of *The Beacon* for some new developments. First, we're opening up your newspaper to advertisements from NARFE partners, from North Carolina NARFE

chapters, and individual members. We don't have the final costs for ads at this point, so stay in touch with your federation and other officers in the future as the rates become available.

Another big development will be electronic editions of *The Beacon* to supplement the hardcopy versions we all receive. The first one of these electronic versions will come probably in June and it and all the other electronic versions will contain more timely and relevant information. We welcome your suggestions for content.

We're excited by these new developments and hope you will be, too. Be sure to let us know how you find them. We're always working to improve our support to our members and we believe these are steps in the right direction.

A difference is coming! Stay tuned!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Carolyn London NCNARFE Membership Coordinator





Recruiting and retaining members for NARFE is very important. They go hand-in-hand. While we focus on chapter membership chairs for membership and retention of members, in associations like ours we need to remember that membership is everybody's job. Every NARFE member must be dedicated to supporting our chapters, national-only members, and federations and to growing the organization, and we know we're not alone. Though the pandemic has made it difficult to recruit new members in person safely, there are leaders in NCNARFE who've gotten creative and come up with new ways to reach prospective members, and I want to hear from you. More important, your fellow members want to hear from you about

what you are doing to bring in new members during the pandemic, so please share your stories and ideas.

If you have suggestions for retaining more current members, we want to hear those, too. For example, as membership chair for my chapter, I find that I can reduce the number of members dropped for nonpayment by simply reaching out to chapter members in advance of their expiration date and encouraging them to respond to the dues notices that Headquarters sends via USPS mail and email. Each month, just check the M-112 Chapter Report from the association management system (AMS) and send a note to (or call) those members whose expiration dates are coming up. This also a good way to inform current members of the dues increases which takes effect on January 1, 2021.

Let's keep ideas flowing—please email me at cclondon@att.net with your thoughts, or we can set up a time to connect by phone or video conference.

As NARFE president Ken Thomas suggested during the virtual annual meeting back in October, "If every NARFE member went out and recruited one-member tomorrow, we'd double in size!" Please let me know how you're helping make membership growth happen. As always, thank you for your support and your commitment to NARFE. Happy Holidays.

National Legislative Officer

Robert Allen National Legislative Officer

• Advocacy! Advocacy! Advocacy!



It's All About Advocacy

NARFE's mission is to support legislation, rules, and regulations beneficial to current and potential federal civilian annuitants, and to oppose legislation, rules, and regulations contrary to their interests. Sounds pretty simple, but it isn't. NARFE has a whole legislative program employing several staff, while relying on us, NARFE members, to make it work. Let me highlight some things.

NARFE has a legislative department of five members who develop the legislative program, along with support from the NARFE Advocacy Committee. NARFE members sit on the committee, so our input can be included in the overall legislative program. The program outlines our advocacy goals for the upcoming 117th Congress. You can contact the legislative department at headquarters for details.

One key aspect of NARFE's advocacy program is grassroots advocacy. That's where you and I as NARFE members come into play. Essentially, grassroots advocacy is you and me contacting our Congressional representatives and their staffs about issues that affect our earned pay and benefits. At headquarters, Marsha Padilla-Goad

is the grassroots program leader. She's full of good ideas on how we can conduct grassroots advocacy and I encourage you to reach out to her for help. We personally can make phone calls, send emials, and write letters. We can even write letters to the editor in our local newspapers!

One way we in North Carolina NARFE facilitate legislative advocacy is through a program called Congressional District Liaisons. CDLs, as they're called, are our go-to NARFE members to contact our representatives. The are in touch with the staffs; they know what NARFE's legislative priorities are; and they know how to speak NARFE with the representatives. Currently, we have CDLS in Districts 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, and 13, so we need volunteers to step up to fill the spots in Districts 1, 5, 8, 11, and 12. It is vitally important we have the positions filled because we need to contact our representatives at the very beginning of the new Congress. The earlier we get to know them and their staffs, the easier it will be to have a strong voice with our congressional delegation. If you're interested, I'd be happy to put you in touch with our current CDLs who are more than ready to talk to you.

A few things we know right off that we need to address with Congress are eliminating the WEP/GPO, changing the method to calculate the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA), which currently uses the CPI-W, but is better done using the CPI-E; and increasing the proposed pay raise for active employees. One other thing we need to be concerned about and take action on (you can go to the NARFE website to the Legislative Action Center for more details) is the proposed creation of Schedule F federal employees, which demolishes the rule that civil servants are hired and fired based on merit, not political affiliation. this policy has been in place since the

See Advocacy/Continued on page 10

1800s and guarantees the non-partisan work of federal civilian employees.

One final note. NARFE has a political action committee (PAC) which makes donations to congressional candidates who support NARFE objectives. There are several ways to become a donor to NARFE-PAC, but one easy way is to be a sustainer. A sustainer has a monthly dollar amount taken from his/her credit card. Sustainers ensure a continual cash flow in the PAC, so that, when it comes time to make candidate donations, the funds are there. I'm a sustainer and I'd be happy to talk to you about becoming one.

Well, that's about it for now. I'll be writing more in the next issue of The Beacon, but from time to time I'll be emailing you (please update/add your email address at NARFE headquarters) with important news and developments.

SERVICE OFFICER NEWS

Sharrill Jennings NC Federation Service Officer

Various



NARFE Webinars & the F-100

One of the benefits of being a member of NARFE is the access we have to the library of webinars covering a variety of benefit topics and related issues. There are over sixty presentations archived on the website www.narfe.org. You simply sign in as a member and scroll down on the left to reach webinars. You then can select the program that you wish to see. Some of the topics include estate planning, financial planning, managing your funds during the COVID-19 pandemic, and managing your TSP account. There are also many others to choose from dating back to 2016.

As we are looking toward the start of a new year in 2021, it's always appropriate to update your financial records and important information for your family in the event of your passing. NARFE has created the excellent form, F-100, "Being Prepared for Life Events." This form can be printed and filled out by hand or you can complete it online and then print it. It was updated in 2019 and reflects the many technological changes that have taken place in recent years. I will be happy to assist anyone with questions or concerns about this process.

National-Only Corner

Vilma Geisert NCNARFE National-Only Member



 NARFE Support to Alzheimer's Research

Alzheimer's Support and You

Since 1985, NARFE members have played a major role in seeking a cure for Alzheimer's disease. Through its partnership with the Alzheimer's Association, NARFE supports research into the cause, prevention, and treatment of Alzheimer's disease, as well as a cure for Alzheimer's and related disorders. Public education on the need for research—our only tool for conquering the disease—also is an important focus. We may all know someone— a family member, a neighbor, a close friend—gradually declining with this terrible disease. In recent years, many Federal employees/retirees/spouses joined NARFE as National-only members, without experiencing the unity of chapter membership, where support to Alzheimer's research is a given. However, as a NARFE National-only member, you too can support Alzheimer's research.

NARFE Alzheimer's Fund

In collaboration with the Alzheimer's Association, NARFE members

have donated *more than \$13 million to the NARFE Alzheimer's Fund.* 100 percent of NARFE donations are allocated to research. NARFE is a member of the Alzheimer's Association's Zenith Society, a group of about 50 donors representing the highest level of giving. NARFE is one of only four organizations belonging to the Zenith Society; and, of the four organizations, NARFE is the number one contributor. Many NARFE members not only contribute their dollars, but also plan and participate in fundraisers, and volunteer at local adult day-care centers and other respite-care facilities. NARFE's current goal is \$14,000,000. In North Carolina, thus far this year we have contributed over \$6,000, but we still need over \$8,000 to reach our NCNARFE to surpass our 2019-2020 total of \$14,757.86.* Your national-only contribution will go a long way to meeting our goal!

Alzheimer's disease does not discriminate, is not selective, and can and does affect men and women alike. Generally, the progress of the disease is gradual and the individual will lose spoken language skills slowly. The progressive deterioration of the brain associated with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia is irreversible and cannot be cured. Early diagnosis and treatment can only help provide some relief and give those involved enough time to plan for future needs.

You'll find an application to donate to Alzheimer's research in the *narfe* magazine. For convenience you may also mail your contribution to Vivian Vair, NCNARFE Alzheimer's Coordinator at 620E. Cannon Avenue, Albemarle, NC 28001. Your charitable contribution is 100% tax-deductible.

*Figures provided by Vivian Vair, as of 12 November.

WEBMASTER NEWS

Peter Eckhoff NC Federation Webmaster

• Your NARFE Personal Data



Updating your NARFE Personal Data

Updating your personal data on the **narfe.org** website may seem like a labyrinth to the uninitiated and computer-phobic, but it is not that hard to do. The following are steps to help guide you through the process.

To begin, you will need to bring up a browser such as Microsoft's Edge, Apple's Safari, or Mozilla's Firefox. Each browser will

automatically place the computer's blinking cursor in the address window so you can begin typing the NARFE address: **NARFE.ORG**. After typing this address, press the enter key and your browser will complete the address and take you the NARFE.ORG web site.

It is easiest if you click on the **Sign In** button. (**Do NOT use** the **Login** or the registration buttons.) On the **Sign In** page, use the left-hand side of the page. Enter your last name and member ID to fill in the username and password windows. (Your member ID is printed on your copy of the NARFE Magazine.) Then click the **Sign In** button.

Once logged in, click on **My Profile** and edit your data. When you are ready to leave, please click the **Logout** button in the upper right-hand corner of your screen.

If you are still having problems logging on or editing your data, NARFE provides an assistance telephone number, **800-456-8410**, or you can submit an email to memberrecords@narfe.org.

NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT (OPM)

www.opm.gov

Here's some useful information from OPM

Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)

Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) and eligible Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) retirees and survivors will be receiving a COLA effective December 1, 2020. The increase will be reflected in your January 2, 2021 payment. CSRS and FERS recipients will receive a 1.3% COLA.

Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)

Calling all Federal retirees! Are you looking for a way to make

an impact in the community - or even around the world? The CFC allows you to continue your service and support the causes you care about. Transition your CFC pledge to your annuity during this year's campaign, September 21, 2020 - January 15, 2021 at https://www.opm.gov/showsomeloveCFC.

Electronic Annual Notice and 1099R

Why not start 2021 by receiving your annual mailer and 1099R electronically using your Services Online account. Simply log into www.servicesonline.opm.gov and enter your claim number, password and update your communication preferences in your Profile. If you have forgotten your password, it's easy to request another one, just follow the on-screen directions. If you have an email address associated with your account, a password will be sent to you or contact retire@opm.gov to have a password sent

Your annual mailer will be available for viewing in mid-December and your 1099R in mid to late January. You will receive a separate email from OPM informing you of when they are both available to view.

North Carolina Federation - NARFE follow us on Facebook @ https://www.facebook.com/ncnarfe visit our homepage @ www.ncnarfe.info

Send a letter urging Congress to block an executive order that threatens the integrity of our nonpartisan civil service and politicizes critical federal jobs.

In October, President Trump signed an executive order (EO) which, if implemented, will convert tens, or even hundreds, of thousands of federal jobs into a new Schedule F classification within the excepted service. These positions would be exempt from civil service rules and due process rights, which ensure federal employees are hired and fired based on their merit, not their political connections or lack thereof. The order also threatens to politicize the delivery of services on which the American people rely, jeopardizing the very foundation of our federal government.

Employees serving in positions that are confidential, policy determining and policy making will be reclassified. In order to prevent mass chaos during the presidential transition and ensure federal employees remain nonpartisan in their work, Congress must act immediately to block full implementation of the EO in year-end spending legislation.

While Congress and the White House are in the final days of negotiating a funding package, it's imperative that the federal community take action now to stop implementation. Go to the NARFE website for more information and to send a letter!

NARFE Supports Senate Bill Rescinding Executive Order That Would Create Schedule F Federal Employees

November 18, 2020

Alexandria, Va. – In response to the November 18 introduction by Senator Gary Peters, D-MI, of a bill to nullify Executive Order 13957 (Creating Schedule F in the Excepted Service), NARFE National President Ken Thomas issued the following statement: "I applaud Senator Gary Peters (D-Michigan) and the 40 other senators who today introduced a bill to rescind Executive Order 13957, 'Creating Schedule F in the Excepted Service,' and block implementation by prohibiting use of appropriations to carry out the order.

"NARFE staunchly opposes EO 13957, which demolishes the rule that civil servants are hired and fired based on merit, not political affiliation, a tradition that has served our country well since the late 1800s. The order also threatens to politicize the delivery of services on which the American people rely, jeopardizing the very foundation of our federal government.

"The new Schedule F federal employee category threatens the centuries-long integrity of nonpartisan professionals by forming a broad exception to the competitive civil service. A competitive civil service provides continuity through changing administrations and ensures public servants' primary allegiance is to the Constitution and laws of the United States rather than the individual temporarily holding the office of President.

"These senators have taken a courageous stand to protect a meritbased, nonpartisan civil service amid a change in executive leadership. NARFE urges swift passage of this legislation countermanding the Executive Order."

NARFE: Proposed Pay Freeze Devalues Contributions of Civil Servants

December 2, 2020

Alexandria, Va. – In response to the White House indicating support for a federal civilian employee pay freeze proposed by Senate Appropriations Committee Republicans, NARFE National President Ken Thomas issued the following statement: "President's Trump's retreat from his promised 1 percent pay raise for federal employees is disappointing, to say the least. In a year when federal employees have stepped up to respond to a global pandemic, with tens of thousands on the frontlines working on behalf of the American people and contracting COVID-19 in the process, a 1 percent pay increase was the least our nation could do to honor the commitment of Feds.

"But now, the White House has come out in support of a proposal by Senate Appropriations Committee Republicans, which would freeze federal pay at 2020 levels, while at the same time, the administration affirmed its support for a 3 percent pay increase for military members included in the funding bills.

"This disparity devalues the contributions of civil servants, who tirelessly and expertly meet the needs of not only our military, but also of our nation as it struggles through this historic health crisis and attendant rocky economic conditions. And unfortunately, federal civilian employees now face the very real prospect of lower take-home pay next year due to health insurance premium increases, which average 4.9 percent.

"President Trump should walk back his support for the Senate plan and affirm the need to increase civilian pay for 2021. Our dedicated civil servants deserve no less."

Coming Events						
New Year's Day	January 1	Unites States				
117th Congress Convenes	January 3	Washington, DC				
Inauguration Day	January 20	Washington, DC				
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	January 18	United States				
NCNARFE Federation Executive Board Mtg	February	Virtual				





REASONS TO GIVE TO NARFE-PAC

NARFE-PAC FIGHTS FOR YOU BY:

- Helping elect members of Congress who support the federal community
- Building strong relationships with lawmakers, a key component to winning legislative fights
- Ensuring the federal community is a powerful political force across the country
- Pooling individual contributions to maximize impact nationwide
- Empowering our strongest supporters to become leaders in our fight

NARFE-PAC DEFENDS YOUR EARNED PAY AND BENEFITS!

CONTRIBUTE TO NARFE-PAC TODAY!



65TH NCNARFE ANNUAL MEETING WEBINAR MAY 12, 2021 FREE

ONLINE REGISTRATION BEGINS MARCH 15, 2021



TUTORING.

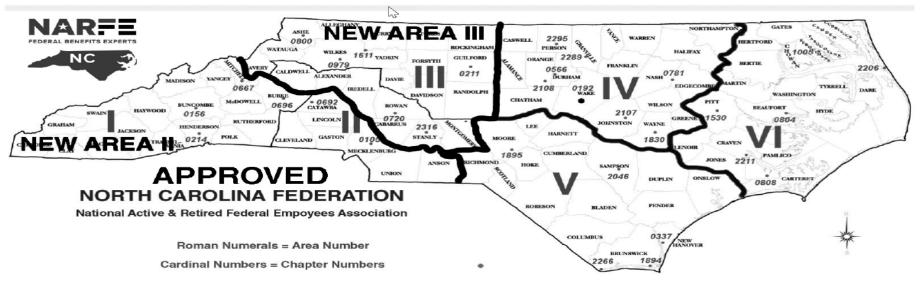
Are you a federal employee with a child in grades K-12, who needs some extra academic support right now? If so, you are not alone. We know the added stress of the pandemic and disruptions to the traditional school experience are affecting many families. That's why we have developed a new program for your children to access free, online academic tutoring for most K-12 subjects. Learn more about eligibility and how to access our partnership with Tutor.com below.

FEEA thanks the Federal Long-Term Care Insurance Program (FLTCIP) for sponsoring the launch of this program, and the BlueCross BlueShield Association for enabling us to support more federal families.

FLTCIP was established by Congress in 2000 and is overseen by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management. The FLTCIP knows that many families are struggling right now trying to balance work and school, and that some children may be falling behind. At its core, the FLTCIP is about helping federal family members prepare for the future. To help your family prepare for future long term care needs, visit the program's new Guided Planner tool.

The BlueCross BlueShield Association, part of the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program (FEHBP), is a long-time sustainer of FEEA's mission and programs via annual contributions, as well as additional support in extraordinary times.

NORTH CAROLINA AREAS & CHAPTER LOCATIONS



North Carolina Federation Chapters And Presidents							
Num Ar	ea	Name	President	Telephone			
0105	П	Charlotte	Charles Talley	(703) 472-2982			
0192	IV	Raleigh	John Allis	(919) 787-5221			
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0214	I	Hendersonville	Mark Brown	(828) 890-8235			
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0696	ı	Burke County	Walter Coenen	(828) 433-7336			
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0804	VI	Washington	Barry Beckman	(252) 923-9933			
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1005	VI	Albemarle	James Sears	(252) 357-1599			
1530	VI	Pitt County-Greenville	Nancy Batchelor	(252) 795-0400			
1611	Ш	Surry-Yadkin	Randall Weatherman	(336) 835-3402			
1830	IV	Wayne-Goldsboro	Harry Senatz	(919) 222-5171			
1894	V	Brunswick County	Julia Wheeler	(910) 846-4714			
1895	V	Sandhills	Richard Benjamin	(317) 902-1491			
2046	V	Sampson-Duplin	Carolyn Bronson	(910) 592-6726			
2107	IV	Johnston County	Evelyn Ellis	(919) 284-1545			
2108	IV	Pearl S. Wright-Chapel Hill	Walter Mack	(919) 797-2246			
2206	VI	First Flight-Kill Devil Hills	David Monell	(252) 441-7482			
2211	VI	Havelock-Cherry Pt.	Matthew Glass	(252) 622-7406			
2266	V	Intracoastal	James Kocsi	(910) 287-5452			
2289	IV	Henderson	Richard Pulsifer	(919) 603-3744			
2295	IV	Person Caswell-Roxboro	Robert Allen	(336) 322-0259			
2316	Ш	Stanly County-Albemarle	Steven Kesselman	(704) 982-6754			

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*Voting Board Members

(Glenn is the Board's unofficial IT Specialist and not a board member. He should not be included in emails addressed to all board members other than those announcing the November and May board meetings which he will attend in order to survey the upcoming convention site.)

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National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE)
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*DO NOT SEND CORRECTIONS TO THE EDITOR

Please notify your local chapter secretary or NARFE National Office

