

NARFE

Coastal Sussex Chapter 1690

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Happy Easter

Another month has gone by and we are at the same spot we were last year at this time. Libraries are just opening up but not for meetings. So your Executive Board is still meeting by Zoom. Restaurants still will not allow large groups and seating is still limited to 4 or 6 adults per table at some restaurants though they are allowed up to 50 percent capacity. We have not met in person for over a year since our last membership luncheon was on March 10, 2020. I hope you all have been able to get your vaccine shots. It was scary and elusive as it was difficult to find some. Fortunately, my doctor managed to get a hold of 9 vaccines which he allotted to his worst-off patients and I have received my second Moderna shot. Our trip to Russia which was cancelled at the start of this pandemic still has not been rescheduled or at least scheduled with certainty that it will go within a reasonable time and that we will be safe. The press and travel agencies tell us to book when we can since there will be a rush on airline tickets. With less than a year to go, the cruise line will probably have to refund my money as I had agreed for them to hold on to it for a future cruise instead of taking a refund immediately. Who knew how long this would last. We have not rebooked Hawaii and don't know when Hawaii will reopen. I don't especially like to travel those long distances with a mask on. That air gets stale. I suspect we won't meet in person until we are fully reopened in Delaware which puts our planned reopening for the September meeting in doubt but something to shoot for. Let's be optimistic and hope that all are vaccinated by July 1st.

In the meantime we have a new Advocacy Chair and we welcome Ken Sosne who has stepped up to take over this important position to keep us informed on bits of information that affect our benefits. I also want to welcome John Pitman who is taking over as the Alzheimer's Chair.

Advocacy by Ken Sosne:

This is my first article as your new Advocacy and Legislative Volunteer for Chapter 1690 Coastal Sussex. I am a retired senior career out of HHS Administration for Children and Families. My wife and I are both retired civilian civil service. I want to thank Carl for this opportunity. As the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted life please continue to follow the State of Delaware information sites so that you can get your vaccine and stay safe. Please think of our federal colleagues at The Department of Homeland Security whom are helping to coordinate mass vaccination sites with colleagues at USDA, HHS and other federal agencies and DOD. Please look for the many activities celebrating NARFE's 100 th anniversary year. Please consider supporting both NARFE and the NARFE Pac to help all. The President has nominated a permanent head to the Office of Personnel Management Ms. Kiran Ahuja. She was Chief of Staff to the OPM Director from 2015 to 2017. Many things are happening that impact us as active and retired federal employees. Ms. Lisa Blount-Rochester puts out information about happenings. Your local state legislator puts out information about Delaware issues. You might want to subscribe to the legislative newsletter of interest as there is much good information. Under the various relief acts over the past year your federal tax preparation might be more complex. There are voluntary resources available to assist you. The relief act should have been signed by the time of this newsletter. The Delaware Legislative session started January 12 virtually and runs through June 30. Of note is legislation to return the property tax credit over age 65. Also,

the legislature is looking to designate the Green Turtle as the State reptile. Let's drink to this. As the Covid relief bill is implemented be careful of the scams that will be occurring. You will get many fraud telephones calls. Again, I want to thank you for the opportunity to provide information about legislation, initiatives, and NARFE activities that impact us all. Always feel free to contact ksosne@yahoo.com if you have questions. I hope to see every one of you at the monthly luncheon when that chance arises and assist Carl and the Chapter to stay informed, challenged and always keeping the federal workforce active and retired in your thoughts and prayers.

March is PAC Month - Greg Neuner

By now I believe you have received an email from Greg and also a couple of mailings from HQ. Here is part of Greg's message again. We might designate March as PAC month but donations will be accepted at any time. Donations can be sent to Greg who will combine the checks together to forward or use the form on page 9 in the March issue of the NARFE magazine to make your contribution.

March is NARFE-PAC month, marking the perfect time to support NARFE's political action committee (PAC). I hope you join me in contributing to the PAC so it can start the new 2021-2022 cycle off strong. Funds raised this month will enable the PAC to support Fed-friendly candidates earlier and allow NARFE to share our most pressing concerns with lawmakers now.

[I hope you will make a quick contribution to NARFE-PAC by clicking here](#)

NARFE-PAC fights for all of us by ensuring that our concerns are heard on Capitol Hill. The PAC raises and disburses funds to candidates who honor commitments to Feds and respect public service. The more allies we have in Congress, the better.

NARFE-PAC also enables NARFE leaders and staff to get in front of lawmakers more often. This valuable face time allows NARFE to share the perspectives of federal employees and retirees. These opportunities grow relationships and make our leaders better informed about issues affecting our community. [I hope you will make a quick contribution to NARFE-PAC by clicking here](#)

The start of the new Congress will bring many challenges and opportunities, and that is why having a well-funded PAC at the start of the cycle is important. We have the power to make sure that the PAC is well-positioned to fight for us.

Alzheimer's Report by John Pitman

An Alzheimer's walk is planned for this fall. NARFE members have raised over \$13 million toward a goal of \$14 million by 2022 for Alzheimer's Research. A virtual walk is organized by HQ and more information will be coming out.

Federation Report

The Delaware Federation was held via Zoom on Wednesday March 10. Like us, the other chapters have not been very active either and are anxious to restore full activities. Membership for the Federation is 577 and 78 National only members for a total of 955 which is down 5 since January. Chapter 190 has 260 members and 158 National only members down 6 since January. Chapter 85 had an increase of 3 members. The next Federation meeting will be on May 12 also by Zoom.

Treasurer's Report –JoAnn Teiken

Our treasury is solvent with an February ending balance of \$6908.45. We have received the results of the Chapter audit for 2020 and we passed. There was a note that our cost of printing and distributing the newsletter still exceeds the membership dues income.

We are still looking for volunteers to fill the various vacant slots we have. In particular we need a newsletter editor. We know no one can replace Dave who was one of the best in the country but we

need someone who is willing to take a stab at it. We are grateful that John Pitman has stepped up to be the Alzheimer's chair and Ken Sosne to be the new Advocacy chair. Other positions are available to relieve current members who may want a different task to handle. We will have another election come November, so please let me know if any of you are interested to serve a term or two.

Retirement information

Ken researched an item that came up at the Federation for what to do if a member or other annuitant passes, please submit the paperwork to OPM at their physical address at:

U.S. Office of Personnel Management
Retirement Operations Center
1137 Branchton Road
Boyers PA 16017

Upon receipt and verification, payments owed will be sent to the beneficiaries.

Happy Easter and Happy April Fool's day to all. I certainly need relief especially in doing this newsletter.

Carl Bouchard, President Chapter 1690 for the Executive Board

NARFE Chapter 1690, Coastal Sussex 2021 Officers

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