



NARFE

Coastal Sussex Chapter 1690

Volume 11 Issue 10

December 2020-January 2021

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR Condolences

It is with a sad note that we approach this season with the passing of our beloved Newsletter Editor, David Fiske on Monday December 14, 2020. David had been sick for the past few months but he was still dedicated on finishing this newsletter. With the help of his son Alexander, I was able to retrieve what he had prepared. Because of our being in hibernation, we had decided to do a combined December-January newsletter and that is what I am attempting to finish. The format is different than what David had and some information may not be included but we will try to keep you informed. I doubt if we will have a printed version this month. David has been our newsletter editor for several years and has received several accolades for his thoroughness and attention to detail. Note that this is issue 11. Also note that Dave was a fellow veteran. So we will need to find another editor, anybody interested or volunteering?
Carl

A word from David's son Alexander

"David Holland Fiske passed away at the age of 80 on 12/15/20 at his home in Rehoboth Beach surrounded by his family. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Mary Ann, sons Alexander and Benjamin, Daughter in law Katie and granddaughter Sweet Quinn. David attended Penn Charter in Philadelphia, followed by Wesleyan University in Connecticut and University of Pennsylvania Law School in Philadelphia. David was a proud Navy Veteran and Career Government employee with time spent as the Press Secretary for Sen. Richard Schweiker in the US Senate, Press secretary for the Federal Elections Commission and retired as Deputy Director of Communications for The Federal Communications Commission. A Celebration of David's life will be postponed until Spring based on current CoVid Restrictions"

A word from Larry Trombello

“Eric West was chapter president for 2011. His wife Debbie was newspaper editor during that time and maybe even started a little before. I started as chapter president in January 2012. Debbie continued to be newspaper editor until August 2013 when she died. David volunteered to be the editor in either September or October.

Because of David's federal work background he did an excellent job as editor of the newsletter. David had a way with words and writing style. As well as writing interesting articles himself, he was able to really polish up (edit) various articles for the newsletter submitted by chapter members. Additionally David was an accomplished photographer and added quality photos to accompany newsletter articles. David thoroughly enjoyed being editor and contributed so much to the newsletter and Chapter. 1690. It was well known throughout the Delaware Federation and through the National Association that Chapter 1690 produced the best chapter newsletter. Our thanks go to Dave for that.”

REST IN PEACE DAVID

NARFE-PAC Headquarters Staff Summarizes Election Results

This article discusses the preliminary election results and what they could mean for the 117th Congress and the midterm elections in 2022. As a reminder, NARFE is a nonpartisan organization and NARFE-PAC does not make disbursements based on party affiliation. This is simply an analysis of how things stand right now.

NARFE-PAC disbursed funds to 238 candidates this cycle. Based on the races called so far, 205 of these NARFE-PAC-supported candidates will be in the next congress. Keep in mind that some of the 238 candidates didn't reach the general election because they ran for a different office, resigned or passed away during the cycle.

While the 205 preliminary figure is good, 24 NARFE-PAC-supported candidates lost their bid. Fourteen of those losses came from challengers and candidates running in competitive open seats, with 10 incumbents losing based on the results known thus far. Many of these races came down to small margins. There are a handful of races that have yet to be called due to ongoing ballot counting.

House Analysis

Even though every House race isn't final, we know several facts about this cycle and the 117th Congress.

For starters, Democrats will retain a smaller majority in the House. They passed the 218 seats needed to keep control, but they saw losses in many competitive districts that were held by freshmen members.

On the other side, Republicans flipped many seats, but not enough to regain the majority in the House. Republicans flipped 11 seats so far, compared to just three by Democrats. They beat the expectations of most political prognosticators, with many close races tipping their way for incumbents and challengers alike. The final number of seats that Republicans gained control of is expected to rise.

So, what does this mean for the House and the next election cycle? A smaller majority has many implications when it comes to leadership, committee assignments and legislation. There's not a lot of room for defection for House Democrats in terms of passing legislation, and some members are going to see their committee assignments change. Finally, the advances Republicans



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made this cycle give them a much better opportunity to regain control of the chamber in the next midterm election.

Senate Analysis

The Senate's story is very different to that of the House. We won't know who controls the chamber until after January 5, because there are two runoff elections in Georgia. Control of the chamber could flip to the Democrats should their candidates win both of the Georgia seats. That would result in a 50-50 split, with the vice president breaking the tie. Republicans will retain control of the chamber if at least one of their two candidates win.

Election watchers paid close attention to several Senate races this cycle, including those in Maine, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Michigan, Iowa, Montana, Colorado and Arizona. So far, Republicans have a 50 to 48 seat advantage. Republicans flipped a Senate seat in Alabama, with Democrats flipping ones in Arizona and Colorado.

With control of the Senate in flux, it's hard to ascertain what could occur in the next session, especially coupled with presumptive President-elect Joe Biden. A narrow majority either way will require much more bipartisan cooperation. More will be known after January 5. With margins so small, the 2022 senate elections will again place control of the chamber up for grabs by either side.

Dues Increase

Members need to be aware that a dues increase will take in effect on January 1, 2021. This increase going from \$40 to \$48 per year for National dues was voted into effect in the recent NARFE election. Chapter dues remain at \$8. So our dues would go from \$48 to \$56 per year. However, you can avoid the increase by renewing now for 1, 2 or 3 years at the current rate even if you are paid up for the next year. Remember to include your chapter dues in the renewal.

December Chapter Holiday Luncheon Canceled

As you have deduced by now the Luncheon was cancelled. We wish we could have fa-la-la and jingle bell together for our traditional December holiday luncheon at 1776 Steakhouse – but alas the safety requirements and common sense that we have come to live with during the Coronavirus pandemic are still paramount and we will not be holding this traditionally joyous get-together. Once again, we're not there yet! We will not be able to hold our in-person chapter luncheons. The Executive Board will once again be conducting its monthly meeting through ZOOM teleconferencing after successful virtual meetings in October and November. We reiterate that the health and safety of our members will always be paramount, and as we emphasize each month, PLEASE remember to wear masks and maintain social distancing when you are out.



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Stay safe!

December 2020 President's Column

I think we can all rest after this hair splitting election and think to the future. There are a plethora of gadgets on the market that entice each one of us to buy or use. In my case since I am a reporter for the CoCoRaHS network. It is defined as the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network. CoCoRaHS is a "unique, non-profit, community-based network of volunteers of all ages and backgrounds working together to measure and map precipitation (rain, hail and snow). By using low-cost measurement tools, stressing training and education, and utilizing an interactive Web-site, our aim is to provide the highest quality data for natural resource, education and research applications." So each morning the first thing I do is take weather readings. The preferred method is a 4" diameter tube that measures rainfall in the previous 24 hours. However, when it is raining, I get lazy and use a remote rain gage calibrated to the manual gage to achieve the same accuracy. It is a time saver. We also measure a water year from October 1 through September 30. So in water year 2019-20, my gage measured 57.7 inches as compared to an average 45.2 inches per year. Yes, it was a wet year. With COVID 19, we also had to take our temperature since Janet had to go in for surgery and needed to take her temperature after the COVID testing before the operation. I had forgotten how hard it is to read those old mercury thermometers, so we bought a digital temperature reader. Instant results and I hope more accurate.

I started talking about gadgets and got detracted. One gadget I recently got from Costco is a stud finder. I had several but they are first generation and not very accurate. This gives me three dots: one for the left, right and middle of the stud. It also identifies wires and pipes. It works like a charm and avoids putting too many extra holes in the walls. My thermostats are also smart and I can control them from anywhere. I also have an app for controlling my car which feeds me information on its health and location. I don't need a TV remote as I can control everything from my phone. Safe self driving cars are almost here. I can do all my banking on my phone anywhere in the world. Of course, smart watches can do a lot for you. With the proper apps, you can track your exercise, food intake, sleep patterns among other parameters for the week. Properly configured, this info can be transmitted directly to your doctor. If you are monitoring your blood sugar levels, those also can be sent to your doctor. Technology can be useful for many things and we can only surmise it will get better. Just think of all the advances in technology of the last 75 years and see what is possible in the next 75. Enjoy these modern day marvels (toys) and Happy Holidays!!!

Advocacy: Open season closed on December 14. Let's hope you made the correct choices. But if you are happy with your plans, then stick with them. Congress is back supposedly at least in body and not only in spirit. They will be pre-occupied with getting ready for stopping the spending gap effective. Expect many of the Executive Orders issued by president Trump to be overturned though not necessarily in the near future. Even though we get a COLA of 1.3%, the Medicare fee will increase by \$3.90 for most who subscribe to Part B. Aside from that, sit tight and wait for the new Congress. You should have received your new earnings statement from OPM. Carl



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Check out the Zoom picture of the last Executive Board meeting captured by our Secretary Marty Justice.

Election of Chapter Officers for 2021

Congratulations to the following members who in November were elected to chapter officer positions for 2021:

Secretary: **Martha Justice**

Treasurer: **Jo Ann Teiken**

Members-at-Large: 2021-2022: **Bill Jenkins** and **Pat Rice**



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President, **Carl Bouchard**; Vice-President, **Larry Trombello**; and members-at-large **Linda Berwick** and **Maria Ryan** will be serving the second year of two-year terms.

After this slate of nominations was presented to the membership by the Nomination Committee in the November newsletter, there were no additional nominations made. Therefore, following Roberts Rules of Order procedures, our Secretary accepted the slate on behalf of the chapter. The new officers were sworn in virtually in December. Now comes the quiz. Match the names to the Zoom callers.

There are some sections that Dave used to include such as the upcoming dates but I decided to not include that since Dave had prepared it for December and the list of phone numbers and contact. These will be included in future newsletters. For your information, my phone number is 302-424-4425 and my cell is 703-850-2670. My e-mail is ceb1548@gmail.com. Our next executive board meeting will be in February. In the meantime if you have a yearning to take over as newsletter editor or Alzheimer's chair, please contact me or any member of the board. I apologize for the letterhead on each page but I am rusty on using Word and Publisher. In the meantime, send me articles pertinent to the whole Coastal Sussex Area that affect or are of interest to our NARFE members.

To a better Year in 2021.
For the Chapter 1690 Executive Board
Carl. Bouchard, President