



NARFE

Coastal Sussex Chapter 1690



Volume 11 Issue 2

PO Box 390, Ocean View, DE 19970

February 2020



Upcoming Dates

February 5

Executive Board
1 – 2:30 pm
Meeting Room B
South Coastal Library
Bethany Beach

February 12

Lincoln's Birthday

February 13

Monthly Chapter
Luncheon Meeting
12 Noon
1776 Restaurant
Midway Shopping Center
Rehoboth Beach

February 14

Valentine's Day

February 17

President's Day Observed

February 22

Washington's Birthday

Lifelong Learning Subject of February Guest Speaker

Many of us have thought about taking adult courses at one of the many facilities available in Sussex County – particularly for seniors – but like many New Year's Resolutions, the idea too often takes a backseat. Well, the February luncheon speaker can help us put that idea back front and center.

Our guest speaker will be **Anna Moshier**, who is the Manager of the **Osher Lifelong Learning Institute** at the University of Delaware in Kent and Sussex Counties. OLLI is a membership cooperative for adults 50+ to enjoy classes, teach, exchange ideas, and travel together. It is a program of the university's Division of Professional and Continuing Studies

Anna will explain the great variety of courses and classes the Institute offers, and will bring copies of their extensive catalog for everyone to look at.

She holds a B.S. in recreation and leisure studies from Temple University and a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Delaware. She has been a volunteer coordinator for over 30 years. She lives in Lewes with her husband, Jason, and her two children, Mia and Ross.



Chapter 1690 Alzheimer Contributions

During 2019, Chapter 1690 raised money to fight Alzheimer's (\$2,497) in three ways:

First, we raised \$1,090 through a fundraising campaign asking Chapter members to make contributions for Alzheimer's that we would combine and send in.

Second, as we had done in 2018, we dedicated the chapter's portion of the 50/50 drawings at our monthly luncheons for Alzheimer's. The 2019 amount raised was \$407.

Third, the Executive Committee voted to contribute \$1,000 for Alzheimer's efforts out of the net proceeds from the June 2019 Delaware Federation Conference that our Chapter organized,

We have traditionally made contributions to two entities: (1) to the national NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund; and (2) to the Alzheimer's Association Sussex County Branch, located in Georgetown, to support the services they provide in our region. The Executive Committee will decide how to apportion the money raised in 2019 between the two categories of recipients.

A hearty "thank you" to everyone who donated money and participated in conducting these fundraising efforts.

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2020 Issues

At the beginning of the year, the publication Federal Times contained two articles of interest on federal employees and retirees that we thought would be of interest to Chapter 1690 members. Excerpts from both articles appear below.

The first article states that “Many of the issues and initiatives that featured prominently in 2019 have the potential to carry over into the new year, and it listed “major sticking points” that feds (and retirees) should keep an eye on in 2020:

The second article describes initiatives to make it easier for former federal workers to return to their government jobs.

“Sticking Points to Watch in 2020”

Agency Moves: Longtime capital-residing agencies and offices will likely find themselves pressed to move in the coming year, as the Trump administration pursues a policy that looks to get more federal jobs in other parts of the country.

Cloud Computing. In 2020, look for agencies to continue to migrate to the cloud and shut down data centers in a big push to modernize.

Acquisitions: Online shopping for government looks likely to be a real possibility for agencies sooner rather than later with the General Services Administration planning a speedy award-to-rollout of the prototype e-marketplace in early 2020.

Union Issues: The fight over President Donald Trump’s union-targeting executive orders is far from over. Expect to see employee unions take their individual agencies to the Federal Labor Relations Board to argue that their enforcement of the orders violates civil service law.

Cyber workforce: The government will continue to grapple with its cybersecurity workforce shortage in 2020.

“Return to Government Jobs”

Federal employees who leave for the private sector or academia to gain more experience may have an easier time returning to government jobs, under a rule proposed by the Office of Personnel Management Dec. 26.

The rule would enable returning employees to enter back into a government job without competition at a higher level than when they left if they have gained the experience and skills to warrant such a higher position. Under current regulations, a returning federal employee can be reinstated without competition only at a grade level that is no higher than the one they originally left.

The proposed rule states, “Oftentimes, when an individual leaves federal service, he or she acquires skills and/or experience that may qualify the individual for a position at a higher grade level than the one the individual held prior to leaving government.”

The proposed changes are in keeping with administration objectives to make it easier for employees to move in and out of government service, with the goal of attracting top talent to spend at least part of their careers working for a federal agency.

Feds must meet certain criteria in order to qualify for the new reinstatement, including having been voluntarily separated from their last position for at least a year, and having received at least a fully successful rating on their performance in that position.

Councilman John Rieley Addresses January Luncheon

Sussex County District Five **Councilman John Rieley** was the guest speaker at our January lunch. He discussed the operations of the county government and said that the county is “fiscally very strong and has significant reserves.” He lauded the fact that the county has earned a AAA bond rating, which he said “is a testament to the quality of the county’s financial management.”

The councilman said Sussex County is “a desirable place to live,” and he added, “This is actually one of the reasons that accounts for the county’s population growth.” He said officials “need to be more sensitive to the impact of development,” and he specifically said it was important for county officials “to coordinate transportation issues with DELDOT.”

He presented a slide show highlighting many of the county’s services and institutions. He said he has visited many of the departments within Sussex County government “to get to meet some of the outstanding people working there,” and said, “It is helpful to meet these people who serve us every day and to recognize their expertise, hard work, and dedication.”

Councilman Rieley said the county did not maintain any financial debts. “We do not take on a project without there being designated funding for it,” he said. He said the county provides grants to police, fire, and public safety entities throughout the county, adding “Every town gets a grant.”

He specifically mentioned the industrial park and the county airport as significant resources, and said the airport will have “significant additional capacity when the runway is extended.” He praised the county’s commitment to providing strong paramedic services and providing support for county libraries.



Delaware NARFE Federation Meeting

Our Chapter President and/or Vice-President attend the monthly Delaware NARFE Federation Officers meeting, and we will periodically in this Newsletter summarize Federation news. Larry Trombello attended the January meeting and provided the following summary:

Region II Training Academy: Regional Vice President Kathy Adams gave an update on the Region II Training Academy to be held from noon Monday, June 1st through noon Tuesday, June 2nd at the Wyndham Garden Hotel in York, PA. NARFE National Executive Director Barbara Sido will be among the speakers on Monday afternoon. On Tuesday morning, there will be a series of roundtable discussions. The Registration fee is \$99.00, which includes three meals – buffet lunch Monday, dinner Monday night, and a buffet breakfast Tuesday morning. The hotel rate is \$90.00 plus tax. Registration forms will be coming to the chapters. Federation money has been budgeted to help supplement the costs for chapter members attending. Chapter 1690 members who would be interested in attending should contact Larry Trombello.

National Bylaws: Vice President Adams said that the updated National Bylaws have been approved. The Federation and chapters need to follow-up by updating their own respective Bylaws.

2021 NARFE Meetings: LegCon 2021 and the NARFE 2021 Centennial Celebration will run together. Most likely they will be jointly held in February or March that year.

Alzheimer’s Fundraising: As of October 2019, chapters in Region II contributed \$3,000 to Alzheimer’s Research. The DE Federation contributed \$490, of which \$250 was from Chapter 1690.

NARFE-PAC: The NARFE-PAC Fourth Quarter Report was not yet available. Third Quarter contributions from Delaware Federation chapters totaled \$4,913. An interesting note from the Third Quarter Report (nationwide) was that National members’ contributions represented 33% of the total collected and represented 38% of the total number of contributors.

Membership: The Delaware Federation has 634 chapter members and 403 national members for a combined total of 1,037 members.

2020 Officers	
President	
Carl Bouchard	424-4425
1st Vice-President	
Larry Trombello	430-7689
Secretary	
Martha Justice	664-1231
Treasurer	
Jo Ann Teiken	616-2017
Federation Treasurer	
Jim Blakeslee	227-5306
Members-at-Large	
2019-2020	
Pat Brady-Rice	215-805-7782
Kathleen Lagore	
2020-2021	
Linda Berwick	436-4261
Maria Ryan	537-1117
Nominating Committee	
2019-2020	
Vinnie Rice	215-805-7783
Committee Chairs	
Alzheimer's	
Lisa Botluk	443-852-0043
Chaplain	
Theresa Pitman	539-5280
Membership	
Ron & Carol Weber	829-8906
NARFE-PAC	
Greg Neuner	539-1013
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Jo Ann Teiken	240-481-4623
Sunshine	
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50/50 Raffle	
Vinny Rice	215-805-7783

President's Column

Carl Bouchard



Federal Service: Do you know what happened to all those projects and initiatives you worked on while in the Federal employ? How many of those were brought through to completion or implementation? As you look back on it, how many people really cared while they were working on that project? Many probably did because their performance rating depended on it.

But carry it one step further. What happened to your project after you left Federal service? I would be willing to bet that it could have become a lower priority and been dropped, or that the outcome changed dramatically so that your direction was no longer recognizable. Which leads one to ask, *“Was it all worth it?”*

It is not unknown when working in the public works field for projects to take 10, 25, or even 50 years to be completed. I was looking at the proposals for the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) and I find reference to many projects I crossed paths with over the years. So I guess the key word is patience. Some of those projects will eventually get built. But many will fall by the wayside, maybe to be picked up and resurrected in a different form some years down the road.

So I believe the answer is *“Yes. It was worth it.”* because someone will pick it up and put a new twist on it sometime down the road for the benefit of the public good. If someone would have dropped the ball, nothing would have been accomplished.

George Washington – Engineer: This leads me to an important date being recognized on February 22nd - George Washington's Birthday. Since George was a surveyor and also considered an engineer, we celebrate National Engineers Week during the week of February 17 through 23 with many events that honor him being scheduled in schools. Discover-E and Mathcounts are events our students can participate in by showing their engineering skills and their math prowess, laying the seeds for the future in their budding young minds. There is hope for the future.

Advocacy: Who knows what will happen during the rest of this Congress. Many bills have been passed and signed into law averting shutdowns this fiscal year. That is good, but we need the bills to be passed for the next fiscal year since this is an election year and we know there will not be any action until election day, and then the losers and their staff will be busy filling out resumes.

Active employees received a good pay increase this year, but I also noticed that my Social Security take home remained the same after the increase in Medicare. That is why we need to be vigilant and push for the repeal of the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) that we discussed in the January newsletter and which targets all public service employees: federal, state, and local.

We will keep you informed of any proposed actions affecting our retirement.

Social Report

Jo Ann Teiken

Forty members and five guests attended our first luncheon of 2020 on January 9th. Sussex County Councilman John Rieley was our luncheon speaker. He covered many current issues happening in the county, including the airport expansion, and discussed how the county government is made up. He took various questions after his speaking session.

Our February meeting will be held on Thursday, February 13.

Hope to see you there, (and please remember to get your reservation in by 5:00 pm on Tuesday, February 11.)

Sunshine Report

Cece Niemi

Get Well cards were sent in January to **Carl Bouchard**, to **Bill Jenkins**, and to **Kathleen Lagore**.

A Thinking of You card was sent to **Walter and Carol Little**.



Luncheon Registration Assistance

Are you interested in being able to meet more of your fellow chapter members, and also provide valuable assistance at a chapter event?

Then please consider volunteering to assist our Social Chairman Jo Ann Teiken at the registration table at the beginning of our monthly luncheon meetings in helping Jo Ann in welcoming members, checking off registrations, taking their payments, and giving them their name tags and the designated color chip for their luncheon selection.

Please call Jo Ann at 240-481-4623 if you have any questions, and to sign up for a specific month or months.

LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM

Make your Reservation and Luncheon Selection with: **Jo Ann Teiken**

Email: joteiken@msn.com or **Call: (240) 481-4623** or

Mail to: P.O. Box 390, Ocean View DE, 19970 **Attn.** Jo Ann Teiken

Please note I will respond to each email reservation. If you don't receive an email response from me, please contact me again.

Please make reservations for _____ Member(s) _____ Guest(s) for **Thursday, Feb. 13, 2020 at Noon at 1776 Restaurant in Midway Mall, Rt. 1** (near the theaters)
Price: \$17.00 per person (which includes gratuities)

Reservations must be made by 5:00 pm on the Tuesday before the luncheon.

Walk-ins are welcome and can order lunch from the regular 1776 Restaurant menu.

Luncheon Selections:

- _____ (1) Stuffed Peppers with mashed potatoes and vegetable
 - _____ (2) Fried Flounder Sandwich with chips and pickle
 - _____ (3) Chicken Caesar Salad
- Dessert: Carrot Cake

My check in the amount of \$ _____ made payable to "NARFE Chapter 1690" is enclosed.

(Notice: persons making reservations but not attending must pay for meals).

Names (Please Print): Member(s) _____ Guest(s) _____

Alzheimer's Report

Lisa Botluk

How can you can help in the fight against Alzheimer's disease? Consider participating in a clinical trial.

Whether you are an individual with dementia, a caregiver, or a healthy volunteer, your participation is urgently needed to participate in clinical trials studying Alzheimer's and other dementias.

According to the Banner Alzheimer's Institute, 80% of studies are delayed due to a lack of volunteers. The Alzheimer's Association states that recruiting and retaining trial participants is now the biggest obstacle, besides funding, to developing the next generation of Alzheimer's treatments. Talk to your doctor about the benefits and risks of participating.

If you are interested in learning about participating in a clinical trial, and perhaps getting involved, you can sign up for Trial Match, a program of the Alzheimer's Association. Trial Match https://www.alz.org/alzheimers-dementia/research_progress/clinical-trials/about-clinical-trial is free and easy to use.

The database lists over 250 drug and non-drug studies currently recruiting participants. Based on information you provide, you will be matched with studies in a geographic area you specify. Participation may involve one visit or ongoing visits to a medical facility. Drug and non-drug interventions are being studied. There are even opportunities for online participation. The National Institute on Aging has a more general online Clinical Trials Finder at <https://clinicaltrials.gov/>.

For additional reading on this topic:

- Bill Gates recently published an article describing the efforts he is funding to address the shortage of participants. <https://www.gatesnotes.com/Health/How-you-can-help-fight-Alzheimers>
- Forbes Magazine published an article on January 13, 2020: "Volunteers Needed Nationwide for Latest Drug, Caregiver and Brain Stimulation Studies for Alzheimer's, Dementia" <https://www.forbes.com/sites/robinseatonjefferson/2020/01/13/volunteers-needed-nationwide-for-latest-drug-caregiver-and-brain-stimulation-studies-for-alzheimers-dementia/#76dad2852cfd>



February 2020

LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM

The History of NARFE

How many of us know the history of NARFE? Recently, Larry Trombello compiled just such a recap, which we are pleased to reproduce here for the benefit of our members.

NARFE was founded in 1921 by 14 federal retirees, who came together to discuss the shortcomings of federal retirement laws. At this time the yearly federal annuity was \$750. The group decided to meet regularly and to recruit more members. The group took the name Association of Retired Federal Employees.

By 1923, the group had expanded to 65,000 members. In 1924 National was added to the name – National Association of Retired Federal Employees (NARFE). The federal workforce grew tremendously during World War II as approximately 9 million workers entered federal service jobs. NARFE grew as well, and became known for its advocacy for increasing the amount of the annual annuity and for providing an annuity to surviving spouses.

The 1950's were a defining period for NARFE. It created a team of professional lobbyists working on Capitol Hill to defend and advance the earned pay and benefits of federal retirees, and became a political powerhouse. It also became a resource for Federal retirees who had questions or needed advice about their retirement benefits. NARFE held its first Biennial Conference in 1950.

During the Kennedy administration the Federal Employees Health Benefit Plan went into effect. It was one of the earliest group health insurance plans and became a model for government employees as well as for the private industry.

In 2005 the organization expanded its mission to include active working federal employees and changed its name to National Active and Retired Federal Employees. NARFE became the only association solely dedicated to both protecting the economic security and well-being of active federal employees as well as protecting the earned retirement benefits of current federal retirees, future retirees, and their spouses.

Our chapter, Coastal Sussex Chapter 1690, was chartered in March 1980. At that time there were 173 original charter members. Today the chapter has close to 300 members. Chapter 1690 is the largest of the five Delaware NARFE chapters. There have been 27 Chapter Presidents since the chapter's inception.



NARFE

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

Coastal Sussex Chapter 1690

PO Box 390

Ocean View, DE 19970

www.narfede.org



February 2020 Newsletter

Memorial Service at January Chapter Meeting



At our January Luncheon Meeting, we conducted our annual “In Memoriam” service to remember Chapter 1690 members who passed away during the previous year. As Chaplain Theresa Pitman read each name, a bell was rung in their honor by Joe Kratz, The bell was donated for this

purpose by long-time member and former chapter President Eric West in memory of his late wife Debby.



*Claude Benner
Marguerite M. Bunting
Lana Catherine Cobb*

*John A. Marchetti
Samuel L. Melli
Robert M. Olohan*

*Natasha Reatig
Dolores Williams
Joseph Robert Wright*