

NARFE

Coastal Sussex Chapter 1690

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Happy Valentine's Day

As I sit here on Ground Hog day and look out the window, I can't help but marvel at how we dodged another storm. My Snow Blower is still in the garage bay ready to blow if needed once I add fuel to it and plug the starter in but I have not had to use it the last two years. We did get about 4 inches before the rain melted it and now we wait for round 2 of the Nor'Easter. The dog did enjoy it. We finally were able to get a pup after looking since last June. She is now 8 ½ months old and a miniature Schnauzer mix by the name of Kona. She is a lot of fun and enjoys the outdoors to the point where we are getting a fence installed. I just hope it does not take as long to install as the deck awning ordered in August and installed a couple weeks ago. The news reported that Phil did see his shadow but it was artificial since the light came from all the TV cameras.

We are still in quarantine with projections that it will be September before Delaware reaches herd immunity. I am beginning to believe it due to the slow rollout and shortage of vaccines. I had projected we could resume our regular meeting in September but I am getting more skeptical about that. In the meantime, your Executive Board will keep you informed and keep meeting via zoom. We have not received our vaccine and have not received a number or date yet. I hope you were able to get scheduled.

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 Jon Pitman has stepped up to be the Alzheimer's chair. It would be nice to have a 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.

Membership: Ron Weber reports that Chapter 1690 currently has 262 Chapter Members, 162 National Members in the Chapter area for a total of 424 members. There still is a problem with the data base as I am shown as a Chapter member in one location but on the national database-112, it shows me as having left Chapter 1690 even though I paid Chapter dues in my renewal. It also shows 16 members having been sent 2nd notices. On a sad note, it also shows 5 members as having passed away in the past 6 months and 9 members as being dropped for non renewal. So please make sure you check Chapter 1690 on your renewal.

NARFE's 2021 Photo Contest: Applications will be accepted through April 2 for the 2022 calendar. Our own Larry Trombello won a month in the 2019 Calendar.

NARFE PAC: Greg Neuner reports that as of September 2020, PAC had raised \$2.1 Million which was \$358K over our Goal. Thanks to all who contributed. About 35% of that came from National-only Members.

Advocacy: Schedule F employee category proposed by President Trump has been scuttled. That would have been a bad idea for current employees in policy making and program management decision positions. Congressman Gerry Connolly (VA), who was my former boss when I worked for Fairfax County, has introduced a HP 392 to provide for equality in COLA's for CSRS and FER's retirees so they receive the same COLA increase. Rodney Davis (IL) introduced legislation to repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO) which affects 2.5M people nationwide. Stay tuned.

Alzheimer's: NARFE has a goal of \$14M by December 31, 2022. The walk to end Alzheimer's started off the year by raising \$62,828 for this biannual event. We are at \$13.7M of \$14M for the period ending on December 31, 2020. Let's keep the funds coming in to battle this dreadful disease. The Federation reports contributions of \$380 from Chapter 1690 and we have received another contribution of \$50.

Delaware Federation: Chapter 1690 hosted a Federation Zoom conference on January 13 and it seems to be helping membership attendance. Gary Roundtree from the Maryland Federation has assumed the Regional Vice President's slot and was logged in. In addition 1690 members included Marti Justice, Mike Buso and Bill Jenkins also listened in. Marti setup the Zoom meeting. Thanks Marti. Many items are on hold until we get the all clear signal. The Northeast Training session in York, PA scheduled to be held later this year has also been cancelled. Some of the national meetings such as LEGCOM will be in a different format probably held by Zoom.

Webinars: I listened in to one last week on "New Year, New President, New Administration" on FEDtalk Radio with host Jason Briefel, Jessica Klement from NARFE, Randy Erwin from the National Federation of Federal Employees and Chad Hooper of the Professional Managers Association. It was very interesting and the recording is available from NARFE. Take advantage of these as they are announced. Check your NARFE Journal as they become available and they are free to members.

CoVid vaccine locations: Below is a list of pharmacies that do make reservations to administer the vaccine shots. However most of them say we are not accepting applications at the present time. Also included are the health care hospitals that do put you on a wait list and they will call you when a vaccine is available for you. I was able to sign up at BayHealth and Beebe. Don't forget the state site for the massive locations and to get a number. I'm still waiting for a number. The following is from Delmarva on line. Use CTRL + click to access the link. Use <https://coronavirus.delaware.gov/vaccine/vams-vaccination-request-steps/> to access the state site.

Linked below are the online sign-up pages for pharmacies offering vaccines in Delaware to people 65 and older. Also listed is the vaccine manufacturer they are offering. You can receive first and second doses at different providers if they are from the same manufacturer and spaced at least 21 days (Pfizer) or 28 days (Moderna) apart.

- [Walgreens](#) (Moderna)
- [Rite Aid](#) (Moderna)
- [Walmart](#) (Pfizer)
- [Sam's Club](#) (Pfizer)
- [Giant](#) (Moderna)
- [Camden Rx](#) (Moderna)
- [Aspira Health](#) (Pfizer)

Medical providers: Some primary care and specialty care providers are offering vaccines to people 65 and older, although several are offering them only to their own patients. A list of offices is available on [the state's website](#).

The state said it will also allocate about 4,000 doses to hospitals this week to administer to people 65 and older, as well as their own phase 1A employees. Information on how to sign-up to be vaccinated through a hospital system is linked below.

- [ChristianaCare](#)
- [Beebe Healthcare](#)
- [Bayhealth](#)
- [TidalHealth Nanticoke](#)

In Memorium:

February is usually the month we celebrate the life of our members who have left us during the past year. Mike Buso reports the following from our HQ lists:

Thomas B Harris

Kathleen M Lagore

Ernest L Bernhardt

Harold P. Thompson

Mary K McLaughlin

David Fiske

Jay Harry Adams

Joseph J. Borek

Delmas R. Reynolds

James Douglas Smith

Billy Pat Clamp

NARFE Chapter 1690, Coastal Sussex

2021 Officers

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Nominating Committee:

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Committee Chairs

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Chaplain: Theresa Pitmann		beachmouse7@mchsi.com	302-539-5280
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Carl Bouchard, President Chapter 1690 for the Executive Board

Our mascot, Kona

