

NARFE

Coastal Sussex County Chapter 1690



Volume 12 Issue 4 September 2021
PO Box 390, Ocean View, DE 19970



Hooray! — Membership Luncheons Resume in September

As our nation attempts to return to normalcy, so are we at Chapter 1690. It has been over a year since any chapter activity. We plan to change this by holding a membership luncheon meeting on Thursday, September 9, 2021.

Our speaker for the September membership meeting will be a member of the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System. AFMES based at Dover AFB is the only world wide medical examiner system. The organization supports all branches of the military as well as the entire United States government. The Dover mortuary is an integral unit of AFMES. It provides comprehensive forensic investigative services to include forensic pathology, DNA forensics, forensic toxicology, and medical mortality surveillance. Our speaker will talk about the mission of the AFMES and its important work.

The Coronavirus pandemic has required operational changes in many community and civic organizations. Chapter 1690 is no exception. During the pandemic, 1776 Steakhouse discontinued serving lunch. However, it will open for lunch for a group of 30 or more customers. This requirement is necessary for it to be cost effective for the restaurant to open. Due to rising operational costs, the restaurant finds it necessary to increase the price of our lunch to \$19.00 per person. This one price includes your entree, beverage, dessert and gratuity.

We can hold a membership meeting at 1776 Steakhouse if, and only if, 30 members make reservations. To give the restaurant enough notice, our members must sign-up by 5:00pm, Thursday, September 2nd. If we do not meet the 30 member requirement, 1776 Steakhouse will be notified that the meeting is cancelled. Because of the possibility of cancellation, payment will not be made in advance. Payment will be collected at the door on September 9th. In event of a cancellation, members who sign-up will be

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Upcoming Dates

September 6

Labor Day

September 9

NARFE Luncheon

September 11

Patriot Day

September 12

National Grandparents Day

September 22

First Day of Fall

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Continued from page 1 — notified. This is certainly not the easiest or desirable way to conduct a meeting, but it is the situation we must work with at this time.

We look forward to seeing many of you and renewing acquaintances at the September 9th meeting. See the Luncheon Reservation Form located on page four of this newsletter to make your reservation. Our meeting starts at 12:00 Noon. Please try to arrive by 11:45 A.M. to facilitate checking in. — Larry Trombello

President's Column

Carl Bouchard

I hope we can welcome each other in person as planned and announced in this newsletter. During the past year and a half we have tried to hold Chapter 1690, Coastal Sussex, together whereas many chapters across the country have folded. We have lost members and also gained a few. I would like to welcome Shirley Edwards as our new Newsletter Editor, Ken Sosne as our new Advocacy Chair and Bill Jenkins as Member at Large. This is part of the team who will hold this organization into the New Year and I encourage you supporting them. We are still searching for a new President to take office in December. I have served for two terms as has Larry for two terms as President prior to being VP. Any volunteers? Elsewhere in this Newsletter you will find a write-up from Larry Trombello on instructions for our next membership meeting. We are having a speaker and it is vital we have at least 30 members and guests pre-registered a week ahead in order for the restaurant to open special for us. We also know CDC is recommending everyone wear masks even if you are vaccinated because of the Delta variant. I hope all of you have received all your shots.

You will also find reports from each of our chairs giving the latest status from their areas. We have been hurt by the raise in the cost of living index. Much of this increase has been attributed to the increase in the price of used cars, but I noticed the price of goods including gas, food and clothing has also increased. I was looking for a new car in the spring and instead of going from the sticker price downward, I was asked to pay a premium above the sticker price of \$4500 or about 10% above the sticker price for that particular model. That sobered me up enough to make me change my mind. But on the other hand, it looks like our COLA for next year will be about 5 percent or more. That is great as long as the costs of goods don't go up, as the COLA could be quickly eaten up. Ken has listed several items in his column to watch out for that is in the Congressional pipeline. I just hope and pray that reasonable people make reasonable decisions.

As you can see, I am still around and have now had four chemo treatments. So far I am tolerating them well although we don't see any positive results. So I am taking it one day at a time and hope that come October, we can start traveling again and that all traces of cancer have disappeared. During my four-year tenure as your President, we have lost three board members and I certainly do not intend to make it four. So prayers are still being requested and appreciated. It would be nice to locate the source of the cancer, but it is elusive and only sending out indicators that it is present.

Take care and hopefully see you on September 9.

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Alzheimer's Report

John Pitman

The US Food and Drug Administration has approved the first drug that will “slow” the progression of Alzheimer’s. This will be the beginning of a completely new future for Alzheimer’s treatments and is an important milestone in its treatment and a victory for people living with Alzheimer’s and their families.

NARFE-PAC Report

Greg Neuner

NARFE headquarters reports that as of June 30th this year, 12,924 members have contributed \$572,240 to the Political Action Committee. That is 31% of the 2021-2022 goal of \$1,850,000. In addition, the PAC has disbursed \$285,500 to candidates and committees. That is 21% of the goal of \$1,350,000. Lisa Blunt Rochester’s campaign received \$1,000. There were no disbursements to either of Delaware’s senators.

In Delaware, 53 members have contributed \$2,294 and we have eight monthly sustainers. In Chapter 1690, we have 21 members contributing \$974 and we have three monthly sustainers.

Thank you to everyone who has supported NARFE-PAC. It’s an important tool that strengthens NARFE’s influence on Capitol Hill and helps protect our hard-earned benefits. If you haven’t yet made a contribution, please consider doing so, either using the form in NARFE Magazine or responding to the national mail solicitation.

Chapter Fundraiser

Pat Rice

Chapter Fundraiser – BOSCOV’s “Friends Helping Friends” 25th Anniversary - One Day Only - Wednesday, October 20 Discount Pass

Once again, our NARFE chapter is selling \$5.00 discount passes for BOSCOV’s fabulous one-day-a-year “Friends Helping Friends” discount sales day (In-Store Only). This year the event is on Wednesday, October 20 from 8am to 11 pm. Use of the pass can result in 10%, 15% or 25% savings, depending on the items purchased. The savings from use of the pass for just one \$20 item at 25% off pays for the card! **Our chapter retains the proceeds from the sale of all the cards.**

You can also register to win a \$100 Boscov’s Gift Card at every Boscov’s Store. The pass is good that day at any BOSCOV’S Store. The closest stores to Sussex County are Dover and Salisbury.

We will be selling the passes at our September and October luncheon meetings. You can also purchase them by contacting Pat or Vinny Rice at 215-805-7782 or 215-805-7783 or by email to Patvin@gmail.com. What a way to get a jump on your holiday shopping!

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LUNCHEON RESERVATION SIGN-UP FORM

Make your Reservation and Luncheon Selection with: JoAnn Teiken

P.O. Box 390, Ocean View DE, 19970: (240) 481-4623 or joteiken@msn.com

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 _____Members(s) _____Guests(s) attending:

Thursday, September 9, 2021 at Noon at 1776 Steakhouse in Midway Center, Rt. 1 (beside the movie theaters)

Price \$19.00 per person (which includes gratuities)

Reservations MUST be made by 5:00 pm on Thursday, September 2, 2021.

1776 Restaurant requires us to have 30 reservations in order to hold a meeting.

If we do not get 30 reservations, the meeting will be cancelled and those persons who made a reservation will be notified.

Luncheon Selections:

_____(1) Chicken parmesan over pasta

_____(2) Pulled pork BBQ sandwich with chips and pickles

_____(3) Oysters (3) on a mixed field of greens

Dessert: Chocolate cake

Please Note: Due to the fact that we may not get 30 members to hold a meeting, no money will be collected ahead of time. All monies must be paid at the door. Persons making reservations but not attending must pay for meals.

Advocacy

Kenneth Sosne

NARFE's centennial celebration occurred in June 2021 in conjunction with LEGcon21 that was held June 21 to June 23, 2021. There is still time to donate toward the centennial that is happening all year long.

The legislature in Dover has adjourned. \$63 million was approved for Grant in Aid that helps fire companies, community groups and many other groups in the state. The minimum wage was set to \$15 an hour by 2024. The budget for the state was one of the largest. The impacts on seniors will be the reassessment of properties in all of Delaware and no change currently noted in the school tax exemption over age 65. For a full rundown of all the legislation go to <https://legis.delaware.gov>.

Of concern in Congress is revisions to the Postal Healthcare that might impact the cost of healthcare premiums for all federal employees. NARFE national legislative team is watching this situation closely.

COVID vaccines are available for all ages and Delaware instituted a lottery cash incentive system to encourage all to get the shot. Many health plans are now offering cash incentives if you have been vaccinated. Please take a look as you can get between \$50 and \$75 a person for co-pays and deductibles. Many drive through sites are open.

In Washington, Congressmen Richard Neal and Rodney Davis have introduced two bills, one WEP related and GPO related. The budget impact is large and costly. No further status at this time. This has been a priority for NARFE legislative and other government groups.

Congressman Gerry Connelly has asked OPM and agencies to delay getting the federal workforce back into offices. More information is still needed but it appears agencies are looking to bring employees back.

OPM's permanent director, Kiran Ahuja, was confirmed on a party line vote with Vice President Kamala Harris casting the tie-breaking vote. The claims backlog for retirement and survivors rose significantly in the first six months of 2021.

NARFE has set a goal of raising \$14 million for the Alzheimer's Association. If you have not yet given, please consider a donation.

Inflation is on track to be the highest in 2021 in several years. That may or may not result in a larger than normal cost of living increase for federal pensions and social security in 2022. Additionally, Congressman Gerry Connelly has introduced legislation to bring cost of living increases in pay and annuities on par for both CSRS and FERS. The Social Security cost of living will also be somewhere north of 4%. Not yet set. — **Continued on page 7**

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NARFE Chapter 1690

Coastal Sussex

2021 Officers

President: Carl Bouchard	2021	ceb1548@gmail.com	302-424-4425
		Cell	703-850-2670
1 st VP: Larry Trombello	2021	trombello@comcast.net	302-430-7669
Secretary: Martha Justice	2021	jjandmj.46@gmail.com	302-664-1231
Treasurer: JoAnn Teiken	2021	JOTEIKEN@msn.com	240-481-4623

Members at large:

Maria Ryan	2021	MLRYAN1@msn.com	302-537-1117
Linda Berwick	2021	linda-berwick@comcast.net	302-436-4261
Pat Rice	2022	patnvin@gmail.com	215-805-7782
Bill Jenkins	2022	bill.jenkins1@verizon.net	302-945-6969
		Cell	410-980-8836

Nominating Committee:

Vinny Rice	2021	patnvin@gmail.com	215-805-7783
Pat Rice	2021	patnvin@gmail.com	215-805-7782
Maria Ryan	2021	MLRYAN1@msn.com	302-537-1117

Committee Chairs

Alzheimer's: John Pitman	beachmouse7@mchsi.com	(302) 539-5280
	Cell	(302) 344-6050
Chaplain: Theresa Pitman	beachmouse7@mchsi.com	302-539-5280
Membership: Ron Weber	rjw98@mchsi.com	302-829-8906
Service Officer: Mike Buso	buso.mike@gmail.com	703-861-9180
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Public Relations: Shirley Edwards	shirleyj206@gmail.com	208-340-7033 (cell)
Social: JoAnn Teiken	joteiken@msn.com	240-481-4623 (cell)
NARFE-PAC: Greg Neuner	grneuner@yahoo.com	302-539-1013

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A bill has been introduced to bring TSA employees into the GS schedule with labor rights.

2022 is right around the corner so giving to the NARFE PAC is critical. NARFE national is monitoring all the issues of concern to active and retired federal employees. Please encourage others to join NARFE.

Chapter 1690 stands ready to assist with survivor and other OPM issues if someone encounters a problem. They just need to contact the Chapter for assistance. We can even assist in the completion of forms as needed.

The majority of the President's Cabinet and Deputy Cabinet Secretaries have been confirmed as of July 15, 2021.