

NEWSLETTER NARFE CHAPTER 1922, WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

JUNE 2014

- **Meeting Tuesday., June 24th 10:30 a.m. at Rockland Place** (Directions below.)
A buffet lunch including beverage and dessert will be available for \$12.00.

At this meeting **Chapter 1922 Legislative Chair Tom Sutor** will discuss the information presented at the NARFE Region II Training Symposium. He will cover the details of the proposed NARFE reorganization and seek input from Chapter Members on candidates and resolutions to be voted at the NARFE National Convention in August 24 to 28. Tom will be the voting delegate for Chapter 1922.

NARFE headquarters notified members recently that there have been changes to the proposed resolutions and bylaw amendments to be presented at the National Convention differing from those explained on pages 43 through 55 of the June *narfe* magazine. Please see a copy of the June 11th e-mail from President Beaudoin reprinted below. The proposal to reduce the number of regional vice presidents from 10 to 5 has been postponed, and the proposal to eliminate mandatory membership in chapters has been withdrawn. Candidate statements will be published in the August issue of *narfe* magazine.

- **There will be NO meeting in July**
- **Tuesday, August 5 – Music of the Night, The Songs of Andrew Lloyd Weber, 3 p.m show at the comfortable American Music Theatre in Lancaster, PA.** The show features singing and dancing to the music of Broadway's master. Group rate is \$27.00 for adults, and \$13.50 for children, if there are sufficient participants. (\$33.50 for adults, if minimum is not met.) For those not wishing to drive, we will organize car pools. If interested or for additional information, please contact Mary Sordi at Sordinary@comcast.net or 302-475-6691. Payment is due to Mary by Tuesday, July 8.
- **Meeting, Tues., August 26th 10:30 a.m. – Matthew Baxter, Social Security Public Affairs Specialist,** will be attending to discuss new initiatives and "My Social Security" online accounts. Also he plans to cover Social Security topics of interest to Federal annuitants, such as the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO). Buffet breakfast including beverage will be available for \$8.00.

Note 1. The July issue of narfe magazine on pages 38 and 39 has a column by Mark A. Keen, CFP commenting on WEP and GPO.

Note 2. Former Social Security Public Affairs Specialist, Rosemarie Kosmalski, retired on May 31. Congratulations and welcome to Wilmington NARFE Chapter 1922.

- **Mark your calendars for Wednesday, June 10, 2015 – Biannual state NARFE meeting at the Dover campus of Delaware Technical & Community College.**

- **Legislative Items - Local**

Many thanks to Tom Sutor who traveled to Dover on April 30, 2014 to be in attendance for the Delaware House Finance and Revenue Committee **hearing on House Bill 217**, which proposed generally to equalize the tax treatment of CSRS annuities to nontaxable Social Security payments in the state of Delaware. Unfortunately, the legislation was tabled. On May 5th Tom also met with State Treasurer, Chip Flowers, and discussed Delaware's taxation of CSRS pensions. Many states exempt CSRS annuities from taxation, similar to the nontaxability of Social Security payments in those states. Delaware does not tax Social Security benefits.

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INFORMATION BELOW (EXCEPT FOR DIRECTIONS) WAS E-MAILED BY NARFE HEADQUARTERS TO MEMBERS PROVIDING E-MAIL ADDRESSES

E-Mail of June 11, 2014 from President Beaudoin regarding Changes in the Proposed NARFE Reorganization

Dear Members,

I'd like to inform you of several important actions taken this morning by the National Executive Board (NEB). After reviewing feedback from NARFE leaders and members in the field and upon further consideration, the NEB has voted to:

- 1. Delay the effective date of the reduction of the number of NARFE regional vice presidents from 10 to five.** The reduction, approved by the NEB in February, was to have taken place November 1, 2014, following regional elections at the NARFE Biennial National Convention August 24-28, 2014. The NEB voted to delay implementation until November 1, 2016.
- 2. Withdraw its proposed bylaw amendment (No. 14-03*) to end mandatory chapter membership. The proposal was to have been considered at the National Convention.**
3. Recommend that the general resolution proposed by the NEB to "continue developing the model for Future NARFE using the Future of NARFE Committee report as the foundation" (No. 14-01*) be voted on by electronic ballot at the National Convention. The resolution requires a majority vote in favor to pass.

Both the reduction in number of regional vice presidents and elimination of mandatory chapter membership had been recommended by the Future of NARFE Committee, a 12-member committee that studied the Association's structure and governance and made recommendations for change.

As a consequence of the postponement of the effective date of the reduction in regional vice presidents:

The online candidate forums that had been scheduled for June 11 and June 12, have been cancelled.

Candidates for the 10 regional vice president positions may submit a 400-word statement and head-and-shoulders photograph for publication in narfe magazine's August issue. Deadline is Thursday, June 19. In addition, regional candidates may submit two 400-word candidate statements for email distribution to NARFE members in their respective regions. Statements may be distributed from now until July 31. Submit statements for the magazine to communications@narfe.org. Submit statements for email distribution to IT@narfe.org.

If interest warrants, additional online regional candidate forums may be scheduled. Candidates who want to take part in online candidate forums should contact the office of the National President (natpres@narfe.org).

In addition, the 2013 Bylaws Comparison Committee reported to the NEB that it is withdrawing from consideration at the National Convention its proposed bylaw/standing rule amendment (No. 14-21*).

Sincerely,

Joseph A. Beaudoin
National President

* Refers to the number of the proposal in the [Bylaws, Standing Rules & General Resolutions](#) book mailed to all NARFE chapters

This message was generated by the NARFE Global Email Messaging System (GEMS) on June 11, 2014.

- **Legislative Items - National**

NARFE comments on pay parity, postal issues

Message from NARFE President Joseph A. Beaudoin on June 13, 2014

öNARFE members willing to get involved in congressional elections may be in great demand after the primary upset of House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-VA, by Randolph-Macon College economics professor David Brat. Incumbents previously thought to be in safe seats, invigorated challengers and candidates in open seats are now more eager for precinct walkers, phone bankers and other volunteers. I urge you to seize this opportunity created by uncertainty. Get involved in your congressional races. Use the NARFE Legislative Action Center's [Candidates and Elections](#) module to find House, Senate, gubernatorial and state legislative candidates whose names will be on your ballot in remaining primaries and on November 4.ö

NARFE Comments on Pay Parity, Postal Issues

This week, as congressional primaries took place around the country, NARFE was informing Congress and making news in Washington, DC. On June 11, NARFE sent two letters to Congress: (1) supporting [pay parity](#) between civilian and military personnel; and (2) opposing the abandonment of [Saturday mail delivery](#). On June 12, NARFE issued a press [release](#) praising legislation to provide tax equity to civilian federal employees in combat zones.

In his letter to House appropriators, President Beaudoin stated, öMaintaining pay parity and a reasonable system of compensation are essential to the federal government's ability to recruit and retain the best and the brightest civil servants.ö In his letter to each representative, Beaudoin argued against both the process and substance of abandoning Saturday mail delivery. öEliminating six-day delivery is bad policy. Though it may reduce costs in the short-term, it would threaten USPS's competitive advantage and lead to a reduction in mail volume, which could ultimately cost USPS more money than it saves.ö

Combat Zone Tax Equity for Civilian Federal Employees

The Combat Zone Tax Parity Act, [H.R. 4621](#), would extend the tax credit available to military personnel who serve in combat zones to the civilian federal employees working alongside them. Currently, only members of the military qualify for federal income tax exemptions on their base pay as a result of serving in combat zones. President Beaudoin praised the sponsor, Rep. Rob Wittman, R-VA, for introducing legislation to compensate for the hardship federal employees and their families face from the separation and stress that accompany service in a combat zone. It also would provide a valuable incentive for civil servants to apply for overseas duty.

Explore Congressional Websites

NARFE members should visit congressional websites and register for congressional newsletters. Doing so is often the only way to learn about public meetings, including telephone town halls, with enough advance notice to allow participation. The gateway for representatives's websites is [www.house.gov](#) and [www.senate.gov](#) for senators.

COLA On Track to Be Bigger in 2015
by Kellie Lunney, June 19, 2014, in Government Executive

- Federal and military retirees are on track to receive the largest cost-of-living adjustment that they've seen in a few years.
- The exact cost-of-living adjustment for 2015 won't be known until October when all the numbers are in, but plugging into the formula the latest available data results in a 1.7 percent increase. The Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W), which the COLA is based on, [rose 0.3 percent in May](#), and if trends continue, will increase during the next four months. The CPI-W measures price changes in food, housing, gas and other goods and services; it could drop during the third quarter, but it's unlikely, meaning retirees could receive a COLA bump next year that is more than 1.7 percent.
- The Bureau of Labor Statistics released the May CPI numbers on June 17. The agency will release the June numbers on July 22.
- The average of the 2014 July, August and September consumer price numbers, along with the average figure from the third quarter of 2013, will be used to calculate the 2015 COLA. The annual COLAs are based on the percentage increase (if any) in the average Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) for the third quarter of the current year over the average for the third quarter of the last year in which a COLA became effective.
- Federal and military retirees, as well as Social Security beneficiaries and those receiving veterans' benefits, received a 1.5 percent COLA bump for 2014, a 1.7 percent increase for 2013, and a 3.6 percent boost for 2012. The 2012 COLA increase was the first since October 2008 (which took effect in 2009).
- Federal employees, who do not receive COLAs, are on track to receive a 1 percent pay raise next year, the same as in 2014.
- According to the formula, if the full COLA increase is 3 percent or higher, as it was for 2012, then retirees under the Federal Employees Retirement System receive 1 percent less than the full increase. So FERS retirees received a 2.6 percent bump for 2012. If the COLA falls between 2 percent and 3 percent, then FERS retirees would receive 2 percent. If the increase is less than 2 percent, as it was in 2014, FERS retirees receive the same as retirees under the Civil Service Retirement System; this year, it was a 1.5 percent boost.

Postal Service Collects 72.5 Million Pounds of Food in Latest Food Drive

June 18, 2014

U.S. Postal Service letter carriers collected 72.5 million pounds of food on May 10 from the donations of thousands of communities throughout America for the annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive.

June 20, 2014

Mary B. Sordi
President, Wilmington Chapter 1922

Directions to Rockland Place, 1519 Rockland Road, Wilmington, DE 19803:

From the North: Take 202 South and make a right at Murphy Road. (AstraZeneca headquarters is on the corner.) Stay in the middle lane and at the next light cross over Route 141 and make a really quick right into the entrance of the Rockland Place complex. NARFE meets in the Brandywine Room in the main building down the hallway to the left of the main desk.

From the South: Take 202 North to the exit for 141 South; this becomes Powder Mill Road. Take this to Children's Drive and turn left at the light and then a quick right into the entrance of Rockland Place complex. NARFE meets in the main building in the Brandywine Room down the hallway to the left of the main desk.

An alternative from the South is taking 141 North past DuPont's Experimental Station, etc. Make a right when you see the sign for the A. I. DuPont Children's Hospital at Children's Drive and then a really quick right into the entrance of the Rockland Place complex.

