



National Active and Retired Federal Employees South Jersey Shore - Chapter 1664 November 2018 Newsletter



Chapter 1664 Officers

President – Rodney Guishard
(609) 625-3605

Vice President – Lawrence Stroud
(609) 646-9672

Secretary – Vacant

Treasurer – Karl Clouting
(609) 641-0907

Legislative Officer – Tom DeFiore
(609) 567-8827

Service Officer –; Michael Ryan
(609) 402-1269

Chaplain – Lawrence Stroud
(609) 646-9672

Webmaster – Wayne Marsey
(609) 204-6843

Newsletter Editor – Anne Harlan
(609) 926-5373

Membership Chair – Carol Dawson,
(609) 652-8149

Publicity Chair – Vacant

E-mail: NARFE1664@gmail.com

NARFE National Contacts

Change of Address:

(800) 456-8410

Recruitment & Retention:

(800) 627-3394

Legislative Hotline (24 hours):

(703) 838-7780

Legislators' Phone Numbers

Senator Cory Booker

(973) 639-8700 or (202) 224-3224

Senator Robert Menendez

(856) 757-5353 or (202) 224-4744

Congressman Donald Norcross (Dist. 1)

(856) 546-5100 or (202) 225-6501

Congressman Frank LoBiondo (Dist. 2)

(609) 625-5008 or (800) 471-4450

Congressman Tom MacArthur (Dist. 3)

(856) 267-5182 or (202) 225-4765

Congressman Chris Smith (Dist. 4)

(609) 585-7878 or (202) 225-3765

NEXT MEETING – NOV 21, 2018

SHORE DINER, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

The next meeting of the NARFE South Jersey Shore Chapter will be on Wednesday, Nov 21st from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the Shore Diner, located at 6710 Tilton Road, Egg Harbor Township. Speaker: Lunch is \$18 (gratuity and tax are included), but is optional, and consists of salad, entrée, dessert, coffee or soft drinks. Federal employees, annuitants, spouses and other guests are welcome.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Rodney Guishard, President, Chapter 1664



NARFE Members, Greetings: I hope you have adjusted to Standard Time and are back at peak productivity. I also hope that your candidates won at the ballot box. Mine frequently don't. Perhaps I'm losing touch with contemporary society.

Makes me wonder whether age or some other factor is the latent cause for this or whether it's because I still value facts, the truth, science, the law, traditions, human dignity, and real democracy etc. I suspect other voters are having similar feelings. As a township committeeman up for reelection, the voter behavior of my constituents is similar to that in many other jurisdictions with razor thin victory margins. I won reelection but election results were so close that the fate of my running mate remains to be determined by absentee and provisional ballots.

In so many of our elections, voter suppressive rule changes are blatantly enacted close to election time and frequently go unchallenged; -when they are challenged, courts often refuse to hear the cases based on the argument that a court decision could (and in some cases should) affect election results. Examples abound: North Dakota Indians living on reservations do not have street addresses. In anticipation of the tightly contested Senate race, the Republican controlled government acted to no longer accept the unique identification that Indians had previously used, but instead required that they have a valid street address; In Georgia, the Secretary of State oversees elections including the gubernatorial race in which he is a candidate.

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LEGISLATIVE REPORT

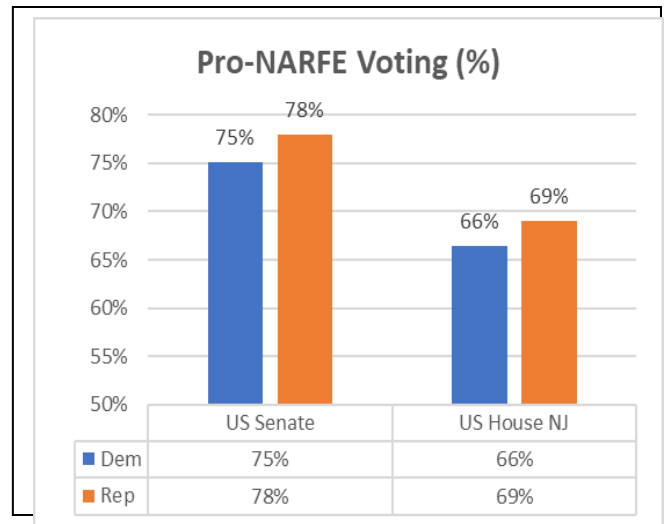
Tom DeFiore, Legislative Officer, Chapter 1664

CONGRESSIONAL VOTING RECORDS (Outlier or Paradigm Shift?)

The October 2018 issue of the NARFE Magazine presents the Congressional Voting Scorecard of the 115th Congress. The Scorecard is a guide that details how each House and Senate member voted in 2017 and 2018 (to date) on legislation pertaining to the pay and earned benefits of Federal and Postal Employees and Retirees. Of the 1,079 House and 564 Senate roll-call votes cast between January 3, 2017 and August 1, 2018, NARFE identified eight House and six Senate votes in which federal employee and retiree interests were at stake.

NARFE President Richard G. Thissen said that this scorecard is all the more important this year due to the extremely divisive political environment, which has included an abundance of misinformation campaigns targeting both incumbents and new candidates. Historically, Congressional Democrats have been considerably more supportive of NARFE issues, however, an analysis of the 115th Congress' voting records may indicate that assumption may no longer be universally valid. This can best be illustrated in the following tables.

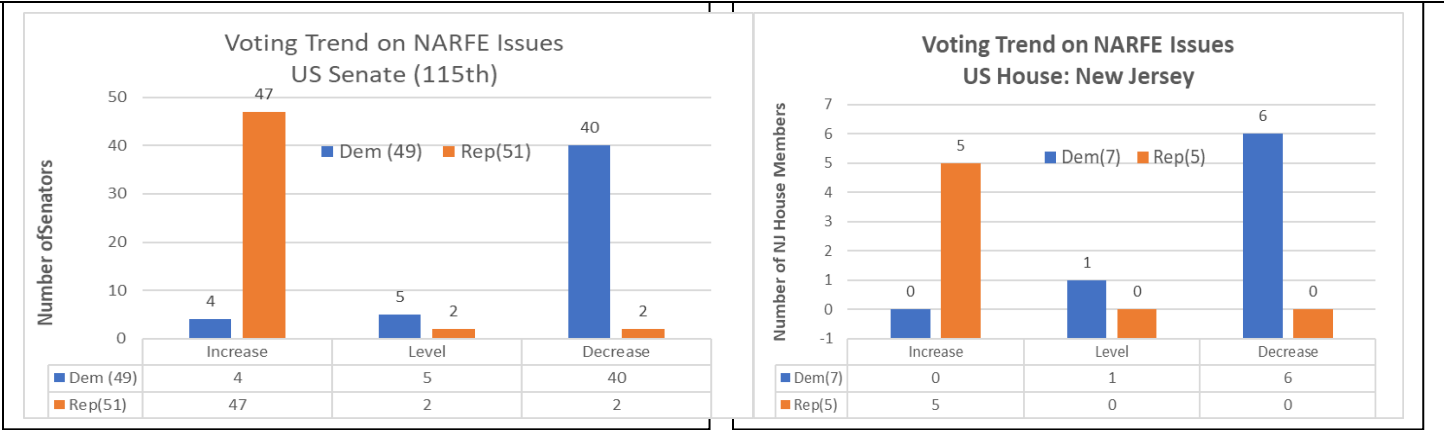
The table to the right is a straightforward tally for each Party's pro-NARFE voting records for US Senate and House members from NJ. For the 115th Congress, these percentages were within 3% of one another. Thus, one could safely conclude that for the Scorecard's eight House votes and six Senate votes where the Federal Family's interests were at stake, the respective Party voting for this subset of the 115th Congress is essentially level. Of particular note, both Senators from the bluest of blue states (CA, OR and MA) supported NARFE related legislation only 50% of the time, as opposed to the overall 75% for the Senate Democrats. One can only wonder as to how these six might vote in the future.



The two tables on the following page could prove a bit more illuminating in that they describe how each party arrived at their respective NARFE support level. When compared with each lawmaker's career voting records, the pro-NARFE voting percentages of 47 Senate Republicans increased, while the voting per cent for 40 Democrats decreased. For the NJ's House members, the pro-NARFE percentage of all five Republicans increased their support, while 6 of 7 Democrats reduced their NARFE support. Hopefully, this downward trend doesn't continue in the 116th Congress, as New Jersey will have for additional Democratic House Seats?

This topic was briefed at the NARFE NJ Federation's meeting on 18 October and the reception was, at best, lukewarm. The briefing's focus centered on NARFE's published voting records for the entire 115th Senate and the twelve House Members from New Jersey. The results indicated that the long held belief that Democrats are more supportive of NARFE's concerns than the Republicans may no longer be in play. The House's voting records of a number of other states showed similar pattern. There was no intent to create a controversy or politicize, however, we should recognize that the results of a straightforward summary of NARFE's own published data does have the potential to invalidate said long held belief. With this in mind, NARFE owes it to itself to re-examine its policies and allegiances and assess whether (or not) they remain appropriate to its mission of protecting the earned benefits of the Federal Family.

Thomas DeFiore, Legislative Officer



NJ Federation Thoughts: Rodney, Larry, Tom and Mike attended the bi-annual meeting in Hazlett on October 18th. Many openings for Officer position this election year. John Szyphulsky officiated in place of Rae. Region 2 VP Evelyn Kirby is being replaced by Kathy Adams. District VPs are down to Codell Moore and Arnie Endick.

One-man-one vote requires each NJ Federation member, including all Chapter 1664 members, will have an opportunity to vote. Elections must be completed before April. Online is the current voting methodology under consideration. Before voting, please inform yourself of Federation issues by reading their Winter 2018 newsletter by going to <https://www.narfe.org/site/nj/>

Mike Demski spoke to the issue of A4052, Remove Income Eligibility Cap.



SERVICE OFFICER REPORT

Michael Ryan, Service Officer, Chapter 1664

Recently Deceased: Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have passed on recently. These include:

Ann M Passarelli	May 22	90	Paramas, NJ	USPO
Dominic Messina	Oct 1	84	Mays Landing, NJ	FAA
Thomas J Gilmartin	Oct 13	90	West Cape May, NJ	FAA
Barbara A Laino	Oct 20	80	Cape May, NJ	IRS
Anthony J Barile	Oct 24	85	Port Republic, NJ	FAA
John J Ryan	Oct 22	97	Margate, NJ	USPO
Jennifer M Pullano	Oct 25	47	Mays Landing, NJ	FAA
Anthony Panico	Oct 29	89	Linwood, NJ	Lakehurst NAS
Shirley Peterson	Oct 25	84	Pleasantville, NJ	FAA

Thrift Savings Plan Updates: Two good changes are announced on the TSP website. First, Changes coming to the Lifecycle Funds announced increased allocations to Equities. Second, Changes to Withdrawal Options announces increased flexibilities coming in September 2019. Unfortunately, one change not included is that Spousal Beneficiary Accounts payouts are limited to tax-disadvantaged one-time lump sum payout.

Recruitment: In February The Technical Center anticipates a Small Business Fair and NARFE may be allowed to set up a table. NARFE National's web page allows all officers to request recruitment posters and current magazines. I did so, and dropped them off at places of Federal employment. I emphasize they are for both Management and Labor, and asked materials be displayed in employee break rooms. Everyone was receptive to this free issue-oriented material.

ACTION ALERT ON NJ ASSEMBLY BILL 4052 FOR ALL MEMBERS: New Jersey Federation officially encourages all Chapters and each Member to support New Jersey Assembly bill 4052, *Removes income eligibility cap applicable to gross income tax pension and retirement income exclusion*. Please write or call your legislators.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(President's Corner, continued)

Nov 11: Veterans Day

NOV 21: LUNCHEON MEETING, 1:00 – 3:00; LOCATION: SHORE DINER, 6710 TILTON ROAD, EGG HARBOR TWP., NJ
Speaker TBD

Nov 22: Thanksgiving

Dec 19: Luncheon Meeting/ Holiday Party!!!
1:00 – 3:00; LOCATION: SHORE DINER, 6710 TILTON ROAD, EGG HARBOR TWP., NJ

In anticipation of the tightly contested Senate race, the Republican controlled government acted to no longer accept the unique identification that Indians had previously used, but to instead require that they have a valid street address; In Georgia, the Secretary of State oversees elections including the gubernatorial race in which he is a candidate. His latest ploy to reduce Democratic voters, is to nullify 53,000 voter registrations with ID's that do not exactly match other voter ID's because of a misplaced comma, period or extra space, etc

Hopefully, the newly elected Democratic house will be far less inclined to diminish our pay and benefits. It is also true, however, that the divided congress will get less accomplished iminish our pay and benefits. It is also true, however, that the divided congress will get less accomplished. This divided congress is likely to change with the next election cycle when the Republicans are faced with having to defend 21 Republican held states versus 12 for the Democrats. I think it is generally recognized that over the decades, through legislation and societal norms, wealth has moved from the middle class to upper income people and that adjustment is needed. Civil servants are largely members of the middle class and should benefit from these adjustments. Perhaps in the not-to-distant future NARFE can shift its emphasis from protecting our benefits to improving them.

Unfortunately, Anthony Barile, a valued former Technical Center employee passed in October. Tony and his wife Sylvia, are long time avid and active NARFE members and participants. Tony was always willing to share his experiences with other members and seek their advice. An example is the solar electric system he had installed in his home. He was enthusiastic about his experience, sponsored a presentation to the membership and was always willing to share his results. Tony's presence and contributions will be missed. Our condolences to Sylvia and the Barile family.

Election campaigning is tiring and time and labor intensive; I am glad it is now over. At the next meeting I hope to have a nutritionist which I had made preliminary arrangements with months ago. Look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

Rodney Guishard, President NARFE Chapter 1664

2018 UPCOMING WEBINARS

(Log into your NARFE account at NARFE.org to access these webinars either on or after the dates shown,)

Live: December 13 – Estate Planning for Feds: *Presented by; Mark Keen CFP Financial Planner*
2:00 p.m. EST

Prior Webinars back to 2015 can be accessed, On Demand, from NARFEs site, by clicking on the “Federal Benefits Institute.”