



National Active and Retired Federal Employees South Jersey Shore - Chapter 1664 May 2019 Newsletter

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(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

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

Congressman Jeff Van Drew (Dist. 2)
(609) 625-5008 or (202) 225-6572

Congressman Andy Kim (Dist. 3)
(732) 504-0490 or (202) 225-4765

Congressman Chris Smith (Dist. 4)
(609) 585-7878 or (202) 225-3765

May 15 LUNCHEON MEETING SHORE DINER, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

The next meeting of the NARFE South Jersey Shore Chapter will be on Wednesday, May 15 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the Shore Diner, located at 6710 Tilton Road, Egg Harbor Township. Michael Remage, Stroke Coordinator from Mainland Neuroscience, will be our guest 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

Greetings fellow NARFE members! I'm currently at the Hamilton Township offices where today is Government Day. We have a lot of kids here from the middle school learning about government and, as part of that process, they are

debating an ordinance on curfew for those under 14. What's fascinating to me is that none of the students could think of a single good reason for the ordinance to exist.

All this brings to mind the crisis we are currently having in our federal government. It makes me wonder if, at the upper levels of government, there is an understanding and support of the Constitution as well as personal integrity. Luckily, we have many civil servants who do have integrity and are willing to take personal risks to support the Constitution. It is very easy to slip into autocracy, so we must be on guard that it doesn't happen.

The NJ Federation Biannual Meeting was held in Hazlet, NJ last month, and we are very proud that Tom DeFiore will now be the New Jersey Federation Legislative Chair and Mike Ryan will serve as the Federation Membership Chair. Congratulations to both Tom and Mike!

I look forward to seeing you all at our May 15 meeting when the speaker will be someone I recently met, Michael Remage, the Stroke Coordinator from Atlanticare Mainland Regional Neurosciences Department. He will speak on "Signs and Symptoms of Stroke." Given my own experience with a stroke (something I never expected to encounter), I thought this would be informative and, perhaps, life changing for some of you. See you at the meeting!

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LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Tom DeFiore, Legislative Officer, Chapter 1664

FY 20 Budget: President Trump's FY20 budget proposal contains many of the same threats as his FY19 proposal. Examples include: eliminating the FERS COLA, reducing the CSRS COLA by 0.5%/year, increasing the FERS contributions to their annuities, eliminating the FERS Annuity Supplement, reducing the TSP's G Fund's rate of return, basing a retiree's annuity on high five, replacing the high three. In FY19, with a republican controlled Congress, none of the threats were included in the final budget. Given today's House Democratic majority coupled with NARFE determination, very little of President Trump's budget is likely to see the light of day, Fortuitously, the House's initial FY 2020 Budget doesn't contain a single threat from Pres Trump' proposed FY20 budget.

Opposition to President Trump's Re-organization Plan: OPM → GSA: Perhaps the most serious FY20 threat to the Federal Family's pay and benefits is President Trump's directive to eliminate the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). President Trump proposes to transition OPM's programmatic functions into an expanded and renamed General Services Administration (GSA), where the potential would exist to receive fewer resources, resulting in less attention. Proposed, also, is transferring OPM's personnel policy functions to the Executive Office of the President, where the current merit-based system could be subject to political influence.. Most alarmingly, the administration's significantly reduced OPM FY20 budget request reflects a projected completion of the transition within a couple of years. Some aspects of the plan are already underway in fiscal year 2019 through assumed administrative legal authority. A battle is looming in DC regarding the level of the President's legal authority to act unilaterally on the OPM → GSA transition without Congressional oversight.

The administration still has yet to provide the details necessary to justify its proposal to dismantle OPM and transfer its vital functions to other agencies. A coalition of House lawmakers signed a letter calling on the administration to provide detailed information and legal analysis concerning the merger of OPM and GSA before it is considered or implemented. Acting OPM Director Margaret Weichert, has been invited to testify on the reorganization proposal at a House Oversight and Reform Government Operations Subcommittee hearing scheduled in May.

If you feel troubled about this OPM →GSA transition, contact your legislators today to express your concerns and request that the President's reorganization plan go through a thorough and deliberative Congressional oversight process before any proposals are implemented. Please consider personalizing and sending the proposed letter on this topic from NARFE's Advocacy website:

Advocacy website:: <https://www.narfe.org/legislation/index.cfm?fa=voterVoice>

No clear benefit is evident from this switch, it only gives more power over the federal workforce and their benefits to the President. Opposing the switch should remain high on NARFE's to do list. Stay tuned in!

NARFE National President, Ken Thomas' Comments at Federation Conference:

- Except for the installation of new Officers, the most notable event at the NARFE New Jersey Federation meeting and conference was the new National President Ken Thomas' description of the dysfunction at National Headquarters. He described how, on his first day in office, he couldn't find anyone from Human Resources to sign him in. This persisted for a number of weeks during which time he was working without actually being an employee. He went on to describe the lack of responsiveness, e.g., attention to answering phone calls and how one staffer had a contract to work only two days per week but was reimbursed \$100K/year.

(Legislative Report continued. on page 3)

- Regarding finances, while stating that NARFE was fiscally sound, he uncovered that NARFE had to tap into its CD's in order to pay current bills, many of which were long overdue. This practice of using NARFE investments as a cash-cow had to stop immediately! His message is that NARFE headquarters will have to live within its means and that there has to be complete transparency. He concluded his remarks by promising to work to that end.
- The feeling was that he could have gone on the entire day addressing the perceived shortcomings at NARFE National Headquarters. Given Ken's IT background, he appears intent on improving the NARFE National Staff's Customer Service to membership, spending within its means, and heavy reliance on audits for fiscal discipline. NARFE's membership should both anticipate and welcome a strict continuation of these policies into the foreseeable future.

Tom DeFiore, Legislative Officer, Chapter 1664



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:

Ants Piip	71	April 5	Vineland, NJ	FAA Tech Center
Homer Carl Harlowe	82	April 11	Sweetwater, NJ	FAA Tech Center
Franklin D Fann	83	April 12	Northfield, NJ	FAA Tech Center
Electra Burdick	95	April 18	Hammonton, NJ	Alcohol Tobacco & Firearms

ROBOCALLS

This month Verizon and other companies are rolling out robocall suppression features at no cost to subscribers. As I have Verizon Wireless, I called to activate the "Call Filter" function and later an App installed without my intervention. It is confusing as parts of "Call Filter" are free, some are not. Verizon FIOS home phone has a similar function. On My FIOS App, I click Phone, Options, Calling Features, Block Incoming Calls, Block Anonymous Calls. My robocall count has decreased dramatically.

MEMBERSHIP

Since the New Jersey Federation had no Membership Chair, I volunteered and was appointed to this job. I am advised that I will receive "loss/gain" reports and will also receive applications of new members and members who sign up for "dues withholding." They are part of the incentive and they receive a \$10 reimbursement. I have never seen this work, so I will be learning.

Last week I attended the Webinar on the new AMS. June 1 AMS will be deployed as a beta version. It will replace the ORM (Online Reports Module) and OAM (Online Activities Module) used by officers of Chapters, Federations and Regions.

I believe these reports provide access to National Members within New Jersey Zip codes. I will have to brainstorm with Carol about how this information might be used.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY 12 MOTHER'S DAY!



MAY 15 LUNCHEON MEETING 1:00 – 3:00;SPEAKER: MICHAEL REMAGE, STROKE COORDINATOR, ATLANTICARE REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER. LOCATION: SHORE DINER, 6710 TILTON ROAD, EGG HARBOR TWP., NJ



MAY 27 MEMORIAL DAY

JUNE 19 LUNCHEON MEETING 1:00 – 3:00;SPEAKER: SHORE DINER, 6710 TILTON ROAD, EGG HARBOR TWP., NJ

CHAPTER NEWSLETTER via EMAIL?

Would you rather be receiving the newsletter by email instead of a hard copy? If so, please send your name and email to:

<http://www.narfe-njchapter1664.org/>

MEMBERSHIP

If you know of NARFE members who would like to join or transfer into Chapter 1664, please have them call the Membership Records Department 800-456-8410. Chapter membership puts that member on our newsletter distribution list and allows our chapter to receive membership dues.

NJ NARFE Federation Biannual Conference Notes

Michael Ryan. April 17, 2019

National President Ken Thomas:

CUSTOMER SERVICE – emphasized improving National staff's responsiveness to Member's voicemails, emails, and inquiries.

MEMBERSHIP – will focus on our current decreasing membership.

REBRANDING – formed committee to review our logo which dates back to 1947.

FEEA (Federal Employee Education & Assistance Fund) – has revised and consolidated MOUs for disaster relief.

Audits – emphasized review of audits of National and Chapters.

Alzheimer's – took action to ensure NARFE contributions go to research ONLY.

National Conference will be during August 2020 in Scottsdale, AZ. Note both the National and State events are Conferences, not Conventions.

Regional Training Event (PA, NJ, MD, DE and DC) will be during June 2020 in York, PA. If interested or you have ideas for types of training, please email Kathy Adams.

NARFE will be 100 years old in two years, so we are looking for commemorative events.

Chapter Due Dates of Note:

March 1	Audit Report F-131 is due to Federation/National.
April 15	Form 990-N is due to the IRS
June 5	\$100 payment is due to National to enroll in the Liability Insurance Policy.

Election of Officers

President	John Szpyhulsky
Vice President	Jerome Rubin
Secretary	Elizabeth Devincenzo
Treasurer	Ed Gable

Appointed Officers:

Federation Legislative Chair	Tom DeFiore
Federation Membership Chair	Mike Ryan