



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

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### 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 Jeff Van Drew (Dist. 2)

(609) 625-5008 or (202) 225-6572

#### Congressman Andy Kim (Dist. 3)

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#### Congressman Chris Smith (Dist. 4)

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

## JUNE 19 LUNCHEON MEETING

SHORE DINER, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

The next meeting of the NARFE South Jersey Shore Chapter will be on Wednesday, June 19 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the Shore Diner, located at 6710 Tilton Road, Egg Harbor Township. Put on your thinking caps because our guest speaker will definitely engage you in some memory fun!

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 hope your health and spirits are as good as the beautiful weather today. If you're wondering who that is in the picture, it's me in 1970 in my summer uniform. I was asked for a picture of myself for this year's Memorial Day celebration. I know you will get this too

late to attend a Memorial Day ceremony but I hope you will attend a Veteran's Day ceremony in November. Your attendance means a lot to veterans and their families. The war in Vietnam did not have popular support and when I separated from the Air Force in 1970 returning veterans were not treated very well. Even though they did not cause the war, they were closely associated with it. Veterans had a hard time finding jobs. They were viewed as having combat skills but very limited skills usable in civilian society. Now, with less than 1% of the population in the military to support their critical mission, views have changed and the role of veterans and service members is now appreciated.

As of this moment, President Trump is in Europe meeting with European leaders who take climate change very seriously. I am currently elated over a land management technique that might just solve the existential problem of [desertification](#) - the process by which fertile land is changed into the desert as a result of animal overgrazing, drought or inappropriate agriculture or forestry. It affects two-thirds of the world's land including Africa, Australia even the United States. It results in starvation and climate degradation. This management technique was developed

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## LEGISLATIVE REPORT

*Tom DeFiore, Legislative Officer, Chapter 1664*

### **Proposed Merger of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and the General Services Administration (GSA).**

Late last month, NARFE National President, Ken Thomas, testified before the House Committee on Oversight and Reform Sub-committee to address the Administration's plan to have the GSA absorb most of the functions of OPM. Mr. Thomas' complete testimony is presented at the web address below.

<https://www.narfe.org/pdf/Govt%20Ops%20Subcommittee%20Hearing%20on%20OPM-GSA%20merger%20proposal.pdf>

Highlights of the testimony: Federal workers dedicate their working lives to the betterment of our country, and in return they expect that Congress and the Administration hold up to the promises made to them when they were hired. Given that federal benefits and retirement plans are unique, complex and subject to change, NARFE is concerned about any action with the potential to add a layer of bureaucracy to an already strained and busy agency. We are even more skeptical of the potential adverse consequences that could result from subordinating OPM's work and mission to another ministerial, non-independent agency.

As this newsletter goes to press, it has been reported that this idea has been rejected by the House Appropriations Subcommittee and appears dead as there is no Congressional sponsor.

**2020 Election:** The political divide in our country appears to be widening exponentially with campaigning for Nov 2020 unofficially already underway. As the Congressional District Leader for NJ-2, I am on the correspondence stream from both Congressman Van Drew and his 2018 opponent, Seth Grossman, who is likely running again for the NJ-2 seat.

The following are recent (unedited) comments from both.

- **Van Drew:** "I have had the opportunity to speak to the people of South Jersey. and met with thousands of the individuals who make up our community. Through this, there is one thing that has become predominantly clear to me: We must finalize these investigations and bring all of this to a conclusion in a timely manner. The people are exhausted with the bad gift that keeps on giving: the Mueller Report. They are tired of the investigations. They are tired of the accusations. They are tired of the reports. Every time it seems we are close to the finish line we take two steps back. For the people of New Jersey's Second Congressional District, it is most important that we work on the substantive issues that we can all find some bipartisan agreement on.

Things like:

Rx Drug Prices	North Korea	Economy
Healthcare	Iran	Border Security
Offshore Drilling	Net Neutrality	Immigration

Our primary goal here in Congress should be to work together to make sure that this term is not wasted on these investigations. Their continuation will only perpetuate civil unrest. The fact is that there is an election in 18 months. I welcome any conversation with my colleagues here in Congress where we can talk about change in a bipartisan manner. I welcome conversations on improving the lives of Americans, on immigration, on healthcare, on any of the many issues that affect people every day. But what I am done with, barring any new evidence, is any talk of impeachment, investigations, or divisive, unproductive politics. It is time to move forward.

- **Grossman:** For three days last April, every news outlet in America reported that New York Yankees baseball and Philadelphia Flyers hockey both removed Kate's "God Bless America" from their stadiums. Hour

*(Legislative Report continued. on page 3)*

after hour, they repeated the big lie that this was done because "Kate Smith sang racist songs during the 1930's". This lie was never questioned or challenged. It was repeated so often that most Americans now believe it is true.

I am the executive director of LibertyAndProsperity.com. We are a non-political, tax-exempt education group. Last year, I was a Republican candidate for Congress in New Jersey. I was narrowly defeated. Like many Republicans, I could not overcome countless lies imbedded in the minds of half the voters in a culture war against America that has been going on for the past 50 years. We need to fight back. We need to win battles in that culture war before the next elections. The first battle our group wants to win is to restore the reputation of Kate Smith and "God Bless America".

Tom DeFiore, Legislative Officer, Chapter 1664



**MICHAEL RYAN**  
**SERVICE OFFICER, CHAPTER 1664**

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

Helen Bernadette McLaughlin	92	April 27	Somers Point	IRS
Carsten Bernhard Tienken	81	May 5	Absecon	FAA Tech Center
Gladys Pereira	96	May 4	Little Egg Harbor	Typist
Andrew L Sluka	89	May 6	EHT	FAA Tech Center
Anthony George Roman	92	May 10	EHT	USPS
Scott Allen Harris Sr	60	May 9	Brigantine	FAA Tech Center
Martha Turk		May 23	Spartanburg, NC	FAA Tech Center
Pat Brown	85	May 30	Mays Landing	FAA Tech Center
Dorthea Massie	70	May 27	Atlantic City	USPO

**(President's Corner Continued)**

by Allan Savory and is being effectively used in various parts of the world. It is a technique which involves the management of herds of animals. A "Ted Talk" presentation on this subject can be viewed on YouTube by searching for "desertification and Allan Savory." I believe that by using this technique, coupled with fossil fuel management and marine life management, we can and must control and reverse the climate change we are now experiencing. We must, however, utilize our government resources to initiate the appropriate efforts. We absolutely should not allow the administration to continue prohibiting government scientists from even acknowledging that climate change exists and that mankind is a major contributor. We must let our legislators know that we are very concerned about this issue..

At our last meeting we were visited by Mike Ramage, an Atlanticare representative who is on a team to educate the public about heart attacks and strokes. He also leads a stroke support group that meets on a monthly basis at Mainland Hospital. At a support group meeting, he accepted my invitation to speak before the group. He suggested that I describe my heart attack and stroke experience and he would add details and describe preventative measures and available support facilities. Be sure to read Mike Ryan's meeting minutes for additional information that was presented at the meeting. I hope to see you all at our June meeting!

Rodney Guishard, President, Chapter 1664

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE 16 FATHERS DAY

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

JULY 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY!

JULY 17 LUNCHEON MEETING 1:00 – 3:00; SHORE DINER, 6710 TILTON ROAD, EGG HARBOR TWP., NJ



## May Meeting Minutes

Michael Ryan, Acting Secretary, Chapter 1664

We actually had two speakers last month. The first was our President, Rodney Guishard, who gave an informative and moving account of his recent heart attack, stroke and rehabilitation. The second was Mike Ramage, Stroke Coordinator from AtlanticCare Mainland. He is in the Regional Neurosciences Department and performs education and assessments and facilitation of care for patients. They have a support group on the first Wednesdays of the month 4-6PM at Mainland. The conversation was fascinating with Rodney describing his experience from his perspective, and then Mike discussing what to do is something similar should happen to any of us. He talked about remembering the warning signs of a stroke using “**BEFAST.**”

- Balance:** Is there a sudden change in balance or coordination?  
**Eyes:** Is there a sudden loss of vision or double vision?  
**Face:** Does one side of the face droop when trying to smile?  
**Arms:** When asked to raise the arms, does one arm drift downward?  
**Speech:** Is speech slurred or garbled?  
**Time:** If any of these symptoms are noticed. Call 911 immediately and note time symptoms began.

Mainland Hospital is a Primary Stroke Care Center, and Atlantic City Hospital as a Comprehensive Stroke Care Center.

Mike Ryan reported on who had passed away in the last month. He also spoke about being Federation Membership Chair, and being eager to learn his responsibilities. Everybody is learning the new AMS/EMS membership information systems.

Tom DeFiore reported on the Federation meeting and is now the National Federation Legislative Chair. Our National NARFE President spoke of headquarters staff being in disarray Tom is recruiting a Congressional representative for each district.

Carol Dawson gave a membership report. Five prospective members were given an invitation letter. Seven members dropped.

Karl Clouting reported that checking has \$380, and our total assets are \$6,703.

Gary Levy presented the draft Bylaws. Anne moved, and Larry Hughes seconded a motion to approve the Bylaws. Passed unanimously.

Helen moved and Carole seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried.