

CLAY COUNTY CHAPTER 1414
ORANGE PARK, FL
NARFE "NEWS UPDATE"



National Active and Retired Federal Employees
Serving Retired and Active Federal Employees

Dec.7
Pearl Harbor

No 10-22

Issued monthly except August

December 2022

NEXT MEETING

DATE: December 13th, 2022 (*2nd Tuesday*)
PLACE: HILL TOP RESTAURANT, Orange Park
TIME: Social 11:30 PM Noon Luncheon
PROGRAM: CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON
SPEAKER:



Monthly Mtg. 3rd Tuesday every month, except July and August, 12:30 PM, OP Library)

PRESIDENT	KEITH BASS	708-2335
1ST VICE PRES.	SUSAN PARKINS	272-0423
2ND VICE PRES.	MARILYN HOLLOWOOD	264-3486
SECRETARY	EILEEN WADDING	772-8431
TREASURER	EILEEN WADDING	772-8431
EXECUTIVE BD.	DEE STEPHENS	276-1067
EXECUTIVE BD.	WILLIAM FLEMING	387-6379
SGT-AT-ARMS	GEORGE TOWER	707-1164
PUBLIC RELATIONS	SUZANNE TOWER	707-1164
SERVICE OFFICER	MARILYN HOLLOWOOD	264-3486
LEGISLATIVE CH		
SUNSHINE CH	LOIS LAMBERT	288-1432
PARLIAMENTARIAN	SUZANNE TOWER	707-1164
NEWSLETTER ED	MARY BERNING	282-0938
Nsltr DISTRIBUTION	MARILYN HOLLOWOOD	264-3486
ALZHEIMER'S CH	WILLIAM FLEMING	384-6379
NARFE-PAC CH	DORIS SMALL	272-2931
RECRUITING	SUSAN PARKINS	272-0423
BIRTHDAY CH	MARY ANN BAUGH	349-7024
CHAPLAIN	LINDA FLEMING	783-0197
PAST PRES.	MARILYN HOLLOWOOD	264-3486

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Keith Bass

President, Chapter 1414
NARFE Clay County



As we close for the year 2022, I can look back and see many accomplishments that NARFE has helped pushed thru to get done.

FUTURE EVENTS

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON
HILL TOP RESTAURANT \$29 each
DEC. 13th, Tues., 11:30 am (see pg. 3 of Nsltr.)

January 17th (3rd Tues.) - Chapter Mtg.
12:30 at OP Library, Mtg.Rm."A" and
Phone com or Webinar

Some **bills** that were **passed** both in Congress and the Senate like the **Postal Reform Act**, **National Defense Authorization Act**, and the **Consolidated Appropriations Act** that ended the need for continuing resolutions to keep government open. These bills were pushed through both chambers of Congress and signed into law by President. Things can get done on Bipartisan effort and many thanks to NARFE for their **Grassroots** efforts and pushing these bills through. This is what makes me proud to be a member of this organization when things like this get done!



NARFE's Mission Statement

To support legislation beneficial to current and potential federal annuitants and to oppose legislation contrary to their interests.

To promote the general welfare of current and potential federal annuitants by advising them with respect to their rights under retirement laws and regulations.

To cooperate with other organizations and associations in furtherance of these general objectives.



I also attended two conferences both the national and state seeing many of our great experts speaking and teaching on how to better our retirement using the many resources that are readily available.

Many thanks to our **guest speaker** this past month, **Mike Jorgensen, from Senior Counsel Attorneys at Law, speaking on what legal documents** are helpful to seniors and to avoid probate court.

We still have **open position** for **legislative chairman** and starting in 2023, the **public relations position will also be open** as Suzanne wants to step down. Be thinking how you can help fill-in.

Our next regular chapter meeting is
January 17th, 2023 at 12:30.

Looking forward to our annual **Christmas party on December 13th starting at 11:30am.** Come enjoy our favorite gathering at the end of the year as we enjoy great luncheon, games, prizes, and friends

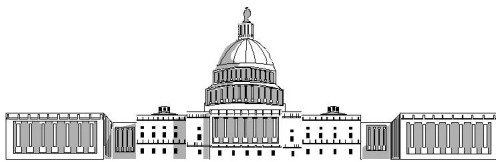


Stay healthy and safe. See you at the



Christmas party!

LEGISLATION



Advocacy Positions Action

The clock is ticking for the 117th Congress—members need to **keep up the pressure on top NARFE priorities like H.R. 82, the Social Security Fairness Act, which would repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO).** Our advocacy efforts helped force committee action on the issue, but now it's time to press for further consideration.

First, NARFE is targeting House leadership through a series of action letters aimed at **Chairman Neal** and **Kevin Brady**, as well as **Speaker Pelosi** and **Majority Leader Hoyer**.



But if none of these leaders is your representative, you can still help press for action. We created an **action letter** for you to push your representatives. All letters detail the importance of H.R. 82 being brought to the floor prior to 2023. Members of these targeted districts are also encouraged to call their representatives using NARFE's toll-free advocacy line at 1-800-456-8410, option 5.



Support Market Rate Increases to Federal Pay Rates / Oppose Federal Employee Compensation Cuts

Federal pay rates must be competitive to recruit and retain a well-qualified and high-performing workforce. To maintain competitive pay rates,

NARFE supports an average increase of **at least 4.6 percent**, on average, for calendar year 2023 through the appropriations process. This would provide parity with the expected 2023 military pay raise and is based on increases in private-sector wages, as measured by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. As such, **we also support the FAIR Act, H.R. 6398**, which would provide a 4.1 percent across-the-board increase, plus a 1 percent average increase in locality pay to keep wages competitive.

Furthermore, the competitiveness of federal compensation should not be undermined by benefits cuts. **NARFE opposes proposals that would effectively decrease the pay** of federal employees **by reducing benefits**, such as increasing contributions towards retirement, which has been considered in the past. This amounts to nothing more than an immediate across-the-board pay cut.



SERVICE

The federal government's annual federal benefits **Open Season** began November 14 and **continues through December 12.** This is the only time of year federal employees and retirees can make changes to their health, dental and vision coverage without a qualifying life event.

NARFE's **Federal Benefits Open Season Resources** page has everything you need to make decisions on enrolling, including providers and rates for the Federal Employees Health Benefits program (FEHB) and the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP), as well as FAQs on the Federal Flexible Spending Account Program (FSAFEDS) for employees.



For 2023, the average increase in the enrollee share of FEHB premiums is 8.7%. That means it's especially important to compare your options. **NARFE members have access to all of NARFE's Open Season webinars, plus links to all rate charts and the most popular plans' brochures.**



It pays to **compare costs!** Enrollees with just one eligible family member may automatically pick "Self Plus One" coverage, but **make sure to check the rates for "Self and Family,"** even if only two people will be covered – NARFE's analysis of 2023 rates found **more than 250** fee-for-service and HMO plan options where the cost of the Self and Family option was lower than Self Plus One.

Still need help after doing your homework? NARFE's federal benefits experts are available to answer members' questions by email or go to: [Federal Benefits Topics - NARFE](#)

Here are links to information about Aetna and UHC plans that are designed to work with Medicare:

www.aetnafeds.com/retiree-center.php
www.uhcfeds.com/medicare-plans/plan-.advantage



During **Open Season**, **November 14 to December 12**, every Tuesday and Thursday, from 12-2pm EST, a Health Plan staff employee will be online to answer questions and discuss plan features. Register Now! for any of our Virtual Health Fairs **.APWU Health Plan – Attend a VirtualOpenSeason Health Fair (apwuhp.com)**
Suzanne Tower



Susan Parkins, NARFE
Federation Membership Chair
Attention Please:
Welcome to our new FL NARFE **Members Website.** Visit often at:
<https://www.FLNARFE.com>

Here you will find many easy real time **benefit connections, notifications, campaigns, blog tips, marketing ideas or help input forms, and mostly ZOOM training at your finger-tip**, from where ever you are!

Something new too! **New members Orientation!**

Improve NARFE Members services and communication by taking a few minutes to add or update your Email address and phone# on NARFE Data profile. It is a critical need that can help us help you BETTER.

Ways to update your data Profile Change:
(A) Call 1-800-456-8410 Opt-1
(B) Email to: Memberrecords@NARFE.ORG
(C) Use our new members website to submit the update. <https://www.FLNARFE.COM> - On the site select the FL members upper menu - Then, select drop down menu - member marketing input form - under purpose drop-down, select Email update.



THE POLITICAL "ARM" OF NARFE
Doris Small

The Political "Arm" of NARFE. Reference:
The NARFE November 2022 Magazine
(Volume 98*Number 9, page 70).

Please read NARFE NEWS: "NARFE stands ready to protect your earned pay and benefits." There are many articles on how NARFE has been vigilant in 2022 fighting for our benefits. **The article continues on page 72.**
[NARFE Magazine – NARFE online.](#)

SUNSHINE - Lois Lambert

Please keep us posted on events



that warrant an acknowledgement. We depend on you for this information.

Contact Lois, at **288-1432** Sunshine Chairman. (answering machine out of order).

ALZHEIMER'S UPDATE
Bill Fleming



Keith Bass and I participated in the annual **Walk to End Alzheimer's** Saturday Nov 5. Our chapter raised \$150 for the walk and I want to thank **Eileen Wadding, Keith Bass, Margaret Koloskee and Suzanne Tower** for their contributions.



Altogether the walk raised a total of almost \$302,000 as of this writing.





JINGLE BELLS CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

December is our major social NARFE month. Plans for the annual Holiday luncheon have been set:

DATE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2022

TIME: 11:30 Social Hour

Noon - Luncheon

PLACE: HILL TOP RESTAURANT

2030 Wells Road, OP

POC: Marilyn Hollowood

264-3486 or 228-1095

GUESTS WELCOME

IF ANOTHER CHAPTER, PLEASE INDICATE

(Max attendance 45)

RESERVATION DEADLINE: 6 DECEMBER

\$29 each-----All Inclusive

MANDATORY PREPAYMENT PAYABLE TO

"Marilyn Hollowood" Mail to:

M.Hollowood, 2748 Birchwood Dr., OP 32073

Option of **menu choice:** all sides will be identical

(1) **Chicken Brusahetta** _____ OR

(2) **Salmon w/Dill Sauce** _____

NAME _____

CHOICE: _____

GUEST(S) _____

CHOICE: _____

CHECK# _____

Amount: _____

ON BEHALF OF CHAPTER 1414 WE WISH A MOST ENJOYABLE BIRTHDAY to the following members celebrating **December** birthdays.

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 10 Guadalupe M. Thielen | 15 Betty B. Sparks |
| 11 Joanna H. Catrette | 24 Mary L. Berning |
| 12 Kay Sibert | 27 Paul Nesbitt |
| 13 Margaret G. Walsh | 30 Linda Fleming |



We greatly appreciate the generosity of our members who contribute to the Birthday Fund. Your contributions make the publication of this newsletter possible and help keep our chapter dues low. There are many members who celebrate their birthdays each month and whose names are never published in the newsletter. We want to recognize **all members** who celebrate their birthday. Unfortunately, National does not send member's date of birth so **we have to rely on members to furnish this information.** If you have not seen your name published, or if your birthday has been entered incorrectly, please call **Mary Ann Baugh** 349-7024 to correct information.

We have established the **15th of the month as the cut-off date** to furnish the donor's names to our Newsletter editor. All donations received after the 15th will be acknowledged in the next month's newsletter. If YOU would like to be a contributor to our "birthday" recognition fund, send check payable to **"NARFE CHAPTER 1414" AND MAIL TO:**

**Eileen Wadding, Treasurer,
7548 Legrande St. S.
Jacksonville, FL 32244-1632.**

The following members donated to the Birthday Fund: **Daniel Robinson, Judith Goshorn, Lois Lambert, Sheila Pearson, and Bill Fleming.**

TOTAL \$120.00



FEDERAL RETIREMENT
GUARDIAN OF INDEPENDENT

Clay County Chapter 1414
2748 Birchwood Dr.
Orange Park, FL 32073

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 686
JACKSONVILLE, FL

Dec 2022

DISCLAIMER REQUIRED BY THE IRS
Dues payment and gifts or contributions to NARFE are not deductible as charitable contributions for Federal Income Tax purposes.