

National Active & Retired Federal Employees Association

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***President's Message***

*By Pat Meyers*

Happy New Year to all of you! We ended our 75th year with a wonderful celebration and it was great to see so many members and friends at the luncheon on December 8th. (See photos on pages 4 and 5.) We were happy to hear remarks from Noah Simon, District Chief of Staff for Congressman Don Beyer, State Senator, Barbara Favola, VFN President, Bob Martin and Area X Vice President, Ted Pasek. Our initial basket raffle for Alzheimer's research was a success and lots of fun. We also recognized two past presidents, Elsie Cunningham and Bonnie Franklin, in addition to the Distinguished Members present. Distinguished members are those who have at least 20 years membership in NARFE. As of early December, Chapter 7 counted 308 members of whom 101 have at least a 20-year membership in NARFE. Another 70 have achieved between 17 and 19 years while our longest enrolled member has been a member for 52 years! Those recognized as distinguished members at the luncheon include: Claire Jacobsen, Robert Maynes, Lynn Mohler, Pat Meyers, Sarojini Grigsby, Elsie Cunningham, Donald Peniska, Mary Lou Tucker and Bonnie Franklin. Thanks to all who participated in planning and executing this event. We missed those who were unable to join us.

As we enter our 76th year as a chapter, we look forward to increasing our membership at monthly meetings, recruiting new members and supporting the goals and mission of NARFE. We look forward also to new directions from the new national executive board whose term begins in January 2023 under the leadership of our new president, Bill Shackelford. Lots of challenges before us at all NARFE levels.

For Chapter 7, I'm asking each member to become involved, as circumstances permit, in chapter activities, including monthly meetings, suggesting ideas for future programs and/or working as a committee chair or member. We are particularly in need of a Membership Chair, an Alzheimer's Chair, Social Chair or assistant social chair, among others. If you can spare an hour or two each month, please let me or Secretary, Nancy Palmerino, know of your interest. We would be happy to explain the duties of these positions.

Please join us on January 11th at Lubber Run Community Center for an interesting and informative program arranged by Program Chair, Norbert Erickson, described elsewhere in this newsletter. Area X Vice President, Ted Pasek, will install the 2023 officers at this meeting. Some copies of the 75th anniversary program and a few memorabilia will be available for those who were unable to attend the luncheon. In addition, we'll have the NARFE citations and certificate plus luncheon pictures available for you to see. Look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

***Meeting Place and Time***

Our meetings are held at the Lubber Run Community Center, 300 N. Park Drive, Arlington. There is a parking garage on Park Drive--easy in and out. Take ticket on the way in and scan on the way out. We have free parking up to 4 hours. As you enter the center from the garage, the Beech Room is across the hall just to your left. Social time will begin at 12:00 noon and our program will begin at 12:30 pm.

## January 11 Meeting – Healthy Aging: Resources for Aging with Alzheimer’s and Memory Care Support

By Norbert Erickson

This month’s program, Healthy Aging: Resources for Aging with Alzheimer’s and Memory Care Support, is presented by Nathan Salisbury, Regional Director of Business Development at Sunrise Senior Living. Nate has been serving the healthcare industry for over 15 years and has experience in a variety of healthcare topics.

He is a Licensed Healthcare Administrator with the Board of Long-Term Care Administrators, a Certified Director of Assisted Living with the Senior Living Certification Commission and helped develop and launch a Medicare Advantage Plan in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Additionally, Nate is “essentiALZ” certified with the Alzheimer Association. Nate continues to be a community resource and supports the aging population and their families through all healthcare related challenges.

### Legislative Corner

By Ed Weiler

#### House Ways & Means Committee Derails the WEP-GPO Repeal Express

To all appearances, it began to seem--at long last--that success was at hand for NARFE and allied advocacy groups in the long slog to repeal both the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO). Over the course of the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress, they were able to garner 305 co-sponsors for a full-repeal bill (*HR 82*), a level well above the threshold needed to trigger a process in the House of Representatives that would have forced a floor vote. (A more detailed explanation of this process may be found on p. 9 of the Dec. '22 edition of *NARFE Magazine*).

Alas, no floor vote ever happened. In a Lucy-takes-away-the-football maneuver, Ways & Means on 9/21/22 held a perfunctory hearing, thereby removing *HR 82* from the floor-vote triggering process. Accordingly, the Committee reported the bill to the full House, “without recommendation.” R.I.P., WEP-GPO repeal in the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress? Most likely, although not necessarily, since as of this writing (mid-Dec. '22), efforts continue on Capitol Hill to have WEP-GPO repeal included in the FY23 Omnibus spending bill. Check in with NARFE’s website to see if this effort panned out.

Meanwhile, a pox on Ways & Means, right? But before we reduce the Committee’s actions to a reductive good vs. evil morality tale, consider what underlying issues might have been in play here. Enter from the vault an article in the March 2010 edition of *NARFE Magazine* explaining why a WEP-GPO repeal bill (*HR 235*) failed to advance during the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress. Herewith the crux of this analysis, which is as relevant today as in 2010:

*“Key lawmakers are reluctant to take up WEP and GPO bills unless they are considered as part of a comprehensive overhaul of Social Security. Working on one Social Security issue without addressing the entire program, particularly its long-term solvency, has been a non-starter for legislators. The Social Security Trustees reported last year that the program will be forced to reduce benefits to 75 cents on the dollar starting in 2037 unless Congress makes changes to the program.”*

Fast forward to 2022, where the most recent Trustee’s Report states that, beginning in 2034, the program will be forced to reduce pay-outs to retirees to 77 cents on the dollar---and this analysis, of course, does not include additional pay-outs due to WEP-GPO repeal. The cost of full repeal, according to Ways & Means (*H.Rept. 117-482*) would be approximately \$195 billion over the period 2022-2032, thereby advancing the “exhaustion date” for the combined trust funds (Old Age and Disability) by six months (this latter figure provided by Social Security’s Chief Actuary). *(continued on p. 3)*

At minimum, then, our legislators' concerns over the fiscal implications of WEP-GPO repeal are not without foundation. Nevertheless, real people---many of whom are NARFE members---continue to be hurt by the inequity of these provisions. Perhaps our only way out of the proverbial box is for Congress to finally take up Social Security reform during its 118<sup>th</sup> Session. The good news here is that Rep. Larson's *Social Security 2100* bill (*HR 5723* in the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress), which most likely will be re-introduced in 2023, already includes the full repeal of WEP and GPO. The not-so-good news is that this bill attained **no** Republican co-sponsors during the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress. Keep checking the "advocacy" page on NARFE's website to see how you can help move ball forward in the 118<sup>th</sup>.

### **Alzheimer's Report**

*By Nancy Palmerino*

Heartfelt thanks to Shirley Hogan, Claire Jacobsen, Pat Meyers and Nancy Palmerino who donated baskets for our first basket raffle for Alzheimer's research at our December luncheon. We received \$165 for raffle tickets plus an additional \$200 in checks which brings our total collected to-date for this year to \$837.59.

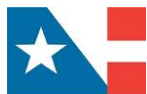
### **Membership Report**

*By Nancy Palmerino*

We currently have 307 Chapter members and an additional 459 National members in our chapter area for a total of 766 Chapter and National members.

### **Upcoming Events**

January 10 – NARFE Chapter 1116 Meeting – 1 PM – Vienna Community Center. The program entitled "**HOW TO USE UBER AND LYFT TO GET A RIDE**" will be presented by Vienna Parks and Recreation staff. The presenters will assist attendees with getting the apps loaded on their cell phones. Members and guests welcome. If Fairfax County Schools are closed, the meeting is cancelled



February 8 – Chapter 7 Meeting



March – NARFE PAC Month

April 3 – 5 VFN Annual Meeting & Conference, Hampton Convention Center, Hampton, Virginia

### **Contact Information**

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Arlington Chapter 7, P.O. Box 100971 Arlington, VA 22210

**NARFE CHAPTER 7 (ARLINGTON)  
75<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Celebration  
Thursday, December 8, 2022**



**Chapter President Pat Meyers**

**VFN President Robert Martin >>>>**



**Chapter Mementos**



**VA State Senator Barbara Favola**

**Noah Simon, District Chief of  
Staff for Rep. Beyer**





**Past Chapter 7 Presidents**



**Elsie Cunningham**

**Bonnie Franklin**



**Ted Pasek, Area X Vice President and Kathy Arpa, VFN Newsletter Editor**

**Guests at 75<sup>th</sup>**



Photos courtesy of Mark Arpa, Vienna-Oakton Chapter 1116.