



**National Active and Retired Federal Employees  
South Jersey Shore - Chapter 1664  
April 2019 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) 625-1223

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](mailto: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 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

## NO LUNCHEON MEETING IN APRIL!!!

Due to the NJ NARFE Federation Conference which is meeting on our Chapter's regular meeting day, we will not be holding a meeting this month. Next meeting will be May 15, 2019.



### Presidents Corner

Rodney Guishard, President, Chapter 1664

Greetings fellow NARFE members. Since my heart attack and stroke in November, it's been awhile since I corresponded with you. Our editor, Anne Harlan, tells me that people have been asking about me so I thought I would give a brief update.

My two health events were life changing, necessitating a re-evaluation of what I can do. I surprised myself at the number and variety of groups and contacts I have established over the years. Unfortunately, my future involvement and contact will be more limited.

I have lost my mobility and now depend on my wife and caretaker, Helen. Without her care and love, I don't know how I could survive. My progress has been much slower than I had hoped. I had anticipated being able to walk and drive by now but that has not happened, and I can't say when it will. After some initial progress I regressed for unknown reasons. But I still look forward to an eventual full recovery.

I'm very pleased to say that my chapter has not suffered from my reduced participation and is progressing nicely. I'd like to thank Larry Stroud, our VP, and many chapter members who have agreed to assume chapter duties. We have a bright future. I want to thank all who have visited me in the hospital, sent cards or otherwise wished me well. I look forward to future participation and to NARFE's continued success.

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." I encourage you all to attend.

### Inside This Issue

1. **Contacts; April Meeting Information; President's Corner**
2. **Legislative Report**
3. **Legislative Report (continued); Service Officer Report**
4. **Calendar of Events; Service Officer Report (continued); March Meeting Minutes**

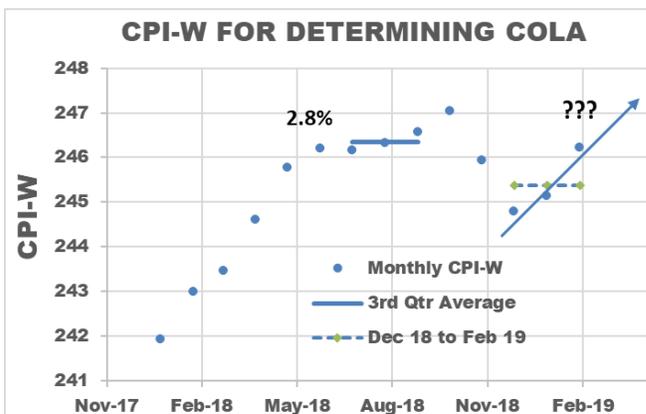


## LEGISLATIVE REPORT

*Tom DeFiore, Legislative Officer, Chapter 1664*

**COLA 2020:** The 2019 COLA was 2.8%. The CPI-W for the first five months is less than the 3rd quarter baseline. Gasoline pump prices frequently can predict future CPI-W's and with NJ's prices increasing by .30/gal since the beginning of the year, we could expect it drive up the CPI-W. In the event that the 'hold harmless' situation arises again, NARFE should remain on the alert.

**President Trump's FY 20 Budget Proposal** contains many of the same features as his FY19. Proposal. Examples include: eliminate FERS COLA, reduce CSRS COLA by 0.5%/year; increase FERS employee contributions to their



annuities; eliminate FERS Annuity Supplement; reduce the TSP G Fund's rate of return; base annuity on high 5 instead of high 3. In the former Republican controlled Congress, none of the threats were included in the final budget. Given the Democratic control and NARFE determination, very little of this budget is likely to see the light of day.

A possibly more critical issue is President Trump's directive to eliminate OPM by rolling the Office of Personnel Management, which currently administers the Federal Work Force into the General Services Administration, without proper congressional oversight or approval. This threat should remain high on NARFE;s list.

**116<sup>th</sup> Congress Proposed Legislation:** (So far, all positive):

- H.R. 1073/S. 426: Federal Civilian Adjustment of Income Rates (FAIR) Act. Rep. Gerry Connolly, D-VA/ Sen. Brian Schatz, D-HI Increases by 3.6% the rate of basic pay for federal employees under statutory pay systems
- H.R. 141: Social Security Fairness Act 2019 Rodney Davis, R-IL Repeals (GPO) (WEP).
- H.R. 1254: Equal COLA Act: Gerry Connolly (R-VA), CSRS and FERS same COLA
- H.R. XXXX: CPI-E Act of 2019: Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA-3) Replace CPI-W with CPI-E for COLA

**Investigation of Boeing 737 Max 8 Airplane:** During my FAA employment, I would get furious when I saw technical decisions made mostly on a political basis. Having worked for the Navy prior to the FAA, I would make suggestions that we should consider using a tried-and-proven DOD procedure for some aspect of airframe certification. I was told emphatically, "We are not the DOD and don't do things the way DOD does." This is typical of the FAA' long standing Not Invented Here (NIH) philosophy

The certification of the B-737 Max-8 airplane which crashed in Ethiopia could be an application of the NIH. The issue originated when Boeing wanted to expeditiously retrofit their Max-8 model with fuel efficient engines. Because these engines were larger than previous generations, they couldn't be mounted as direct replacements under the wings. The installation involved the extension of the landing gear and mounting of the engine in a different location. This modification changed the airplane's aerodynamics and Boeing subsequently developed and installed the software required to compensate (or so Boeing thought) for the resultant aerodynamic changes.

In recent years, the FAA had been delegating increasing amounts of its data gathering and analysis for certification to the aircraft manufacturers. Consequently, when the time came to certify the Max-8, the FAA had neither the funding nor resources (i.e., skilled workers) to independently certify this model in a timely manner. The net effect was that Boeing largely certified its own retrofit with dire consequences. Had the FAA employed a sufficient skilled workforce to independently evaluate/test/certify the Max-8, these accidents might not have happened. Would not NARFE be wise to highlight this Federal Workforce example in its efforts to display the value of the Federal Workers? (cont. on page 3)

Supplementary Note: FAA Order 8000.80A. established the Chief Scientific and Technical Advisors (CSTA) and Senior Technical Specialist (STS) Programs. These programs form an integral part of FAA's Aircraft Certification and Flight Standards Directorates and were designed to build and maintain a cadre of specialized technical experts of worldwide reputation. These specialists are at the forefront of scientific and technological activities related to FAA research and development efforts; influence the research agendas of U.S. and foreign aviation industries, military, academia, and other research institutions; and interact with and assist other U.S. Government agencies and foreign civil aviation authorities in technology-related issues.



These CSTA's and STS's play a technical leadership role by supporting the FAA and the aviation industry in the design and

development of aircraft and in the application of regulatory policies and practices for certification of state-of-the-art technology. Through the CSTA and STS, the FAA is at the forefront of these changes, enabling the United States to maintain its position of world leadership in the aviation industry. The FAA employs a combined 27 CSTA's and STS's who are experts on a variety of aviation subjects, (Loads, Fatigue, Non-destructive inspection, Composite Materials, etc.) Unfortunately, approximately seven of these positions have been vacant for many years. Two of these critical vacant positions include: aeroelasticity/loads and advanced flight controls, specialties critical to the retrofit of these fuel efficient engines. What would motivate the FAA go to the effort to establish the CTSA/ATS Program then not use it?

Final note from the Federation Executive Board Meeting; there are disturbing trends on the horizon.

- National Membership in NARFE is down about 200,000
- Funds had to be withdrawn from investments to pay current bills
- Chapters and the Federation need to identify other sources of income in addition to dues
- NARFE Centennial is scheduled for 2021, Regional VP Kathy Adams is National Chair. She is looking for ideas
- NJ Federation lost many officers who moved from NJ. The Federation is desperate for members to step up. If you are interested, please let me know prior to the Federation Convention on 17 April.

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:

Symone Emily Allen	29	March 5	Pleasantville, NJ	US Post Office
Carol Bernshouse Kleiner	84	March 10	Galloway, NJ	US Post Office
Barbara Gorman	67	March 7	Brigantine, NJ	FAA Tech Center
Anita McLeish	86	March 21	Cape May, NJ	US Post Office

### IRS Form 990-N

Rodney helped me go online to file IRS Form 990-N for our chapter. The process simply certifies our non-profit took in less than \$50,000 this year.

(continued on page 4)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**APR 17 CHAPTER LUNCHEON MEETING CANCELED!!!**  
NO CHAPTER MEETING HELD IN APRIL.

**APR 17 BIENNIAL FEDERATION CONFERENCE**  
LOCATION: THE GRAMMERCY AT LAKESIDE MANOR,  
HAZLET, NJ

**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

(Service Officer Report continued)

### **BEERS LIST OF MEDICATIONS**

A speaker at Chapter 0718 spoke of the American Geriatric Society “Beers list” (first developed by Dr. Mike Beers in 1991) which are guidelines for healthcare professionals to improve the safety of prescribing medications for older adults. They emphasize eliminating medications that are unnecessary which helps to reduce the problems of drug interactions and adverse drug reactions, thereby improving the risk–benefit ratio of medication for those who are older. For more information, click here: or paste this URL in your browser:  
<https://www.americangeriatrics.org/media-center/news/older-people-medications-are-common-updated-ags-beers-criteriar-aims-make-sure>

### **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.

## **March Meeting Minutes**

Michael Ryan, Acting Secretary

Vice President and Chaplain Larry Stroud opened the meeting with a moment of silence and pledge of allegiance. Larry invited each member to introduce themselves and give their background.

April’s Meeting - Motion made and seconded to defer April’s meeting so officers could attend the Federation meeting in Hazlett. Carried.

Legislative Officer’s Report – Tom reported the Legislative Training he attended was the best ever. A COLA increase for next year was trending in the positive. Trump’s Budget proposals are mostly bad. A motion was made and seconded to accept Tom’s report. Carried.

President’s Report – Rodney commented on how well the Chapter was functioning in light of his absence. He emphasized the need to fill officer positions.

Treasurer’s Report – Carl reported all accounts totaled \$6,698. Rodney moved, Anne seconded a motion to accept his report. Carried.

Bylaws Report – Gary presented draft bylaws based on Federation’s template. He asked everyone to review and be prepared to vote on them next meeting.

Service Officers Report – Mike acknowledged recent deaths. He solicited updates for the Center News advertisements. He mentioned that emailing OPM on behalf of an annuitant was successful.

State Taxes – Paul reported on his activity on exemptions for federal retirees. A West Virginia lawsuit set a fairness precedent for Federal Marshals versus State Marshals. The court ruled that the state had to treat state and federal pensions the same with regard to taxation. Paul has contacted the State Assembly and State Senates offices. He also contacted NARFE National. He talked about Senate bill S1537. He has requested a copy of the Tax Fairness Report for NJ.

Speaker – Chris Sehr, Applied Research Associates, Absecon Council and former President of the Atlantic City Historical Waterfront Foundation, spoke about Politics and Gardener’s Basin which, until recently, was headed by a non-profit foundation. It promoted and developed the basin over the last 40 years. This beautiful location was enhanced with a dock, bar, restaurant and Aquarium. Chris discussed the role of local, state and national politics in moving management of the Basin to a for-profit company and then back to being run by Atlantic City. In addition, he discussed the recent Boeing Max 8 aircraft accidents from his perspective as a former FAA Division Manager for Aircraft Safety and current role as ARA Transportation Sector Director of Aircraft Safety, Security and R&D.