



**South Jersey Shore Chapter 1664
February 2020 Newsletter**

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- Publicity Chair - Vacant

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

**FEBRUARY 19, 2020 LUNCHEON MEETING
Balance Testing and Fall Prevention
SHORE DINER, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.**

The next meeting of the NARFE South Jersey Shore Chapter will be on Wednesday, February 19 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the Shore Diner located at 6710 Tilton Road, Egg Harbor Township. 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
Gary Levy, President, Chapter 1664

Hello, Chapter 1664 members! As I enter this second month of 2020, I can't help but feel a great sense of uncertainty about the future and what's going to happen next. My first dissertation in January was easy - just introduce myself. This time I thought about sharing the good fortune of being a retired federal employee with lots of free time - another easy subject. I don't think so. You see, when I was thinking about closing out my career, friends and family asked how would I keep busy? Well afterwards it didn't take long for me to discover myself saying that with all I had going on, I wondered how I ever found time to go to work. Embarking on each day of my life over the last few years and trying to keep pace of fast-changing national and world events in progress, I believe I now know how a daily talk-show host feels. Just when he or she thinks they have a set program, there's "breaking news;" however the show must go on and fortunately they have a staff to deal with it. I don't have a staff.

With all that being said, allow me to therefore reveal that the subject for this month for me is no subject. Yes, I know I should be talking about NARFE stuff, but in that regard what I probably have been taking for granted for years, will present a bit of a learning curve for me to experience and relate to more closely into the future. Our Chapter is lucky to have long standing officers actively working to keep on top of their areas of expertise for us, and we all receive the NARFE Magazine to give us an aerial view regarding items and issues of major organizational importance. Coming to a monthly meeting is a welcome educational and social diversion - a presentation and a nice meal with friends and colleagues.

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LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Tom DeFiore, Legislative Officer, Chapter 1664
NJ Federation National Legislative Chair

Letter (Faxed) to Senators Menendez and Booker regarding the USPS Fairness Act (S. 2965)

The National Active and Retired Federal Employee (NARFE) Association requests that you consider joining your colleagues, Senators Steve Daines (R-MT) and Brian Schatz (D-HI), in co-sponsoring the United States Postal Service (USPS) Fairness Act (S. 2965). This bill repeals the USPS mandate to prefund postal retiree health benefits and is identical to House Legislation (H.R. 2382), which was introduced last year. H.R.2382 has the support of a bipartisan super-majority of the House of Representatives

Even though the USPS has never been delinquent in its obligation to fund retirees' health benefits, Congress in 2006 enacted the fiscally damaging Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act (PAEA). This Legislation mandated annual prefunding payments by USPS into the Retiree Health Benefits Fund (RHBF) over a 10-year budget window from fiscal years 2007-2016. Required payments ranged from \$5.4 to \$5.8 billion annually. This mandate, which no other company or agency faces, is responsible for 90 percent of the USPS financial losses incurred since 2007. Pre-funding repeal would provide a sound foundation for future postal reform proposals. This action alone will free the USPS to invest in its infrastructure and better utilize its vast networks to further serve business and residential customers.

Breaking News Just In: WASHINGTON, DC – U.S. Rep. Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ-09) has now voted in favor of [H.R. 2382](#), the USPS Fairness Act, vital legislation to finally repeal the crippling health care prefunding requirement that is bankrupting the U.S. Postal Service (USPS). The bill passed the House 309-to-106 and now heads to the Senate for its consideration.

NARFE 2019 Accomplishments: For 2019, Federal Employees and Retiree benefits were not negatively impacted. In fact, NARFE has had some positive impact in the following:

- Played a leading role in blocking the misguided OPM reorganization plan,
- Defeated presidential budget proposals to eliminate or reduce COLA's
- Defeated the proposed \$177 billion in cuts to benefits, none of which became law
- Worked to pass a 3.1% average federal pay raise for 2020, the largest in a decade,
- Secured 12 weeks of paid parental leave for federal workers
- Worked to pass into law the Government Employee Fair Treatment Act guaranteeing back pay during all future government shutdowns.
- Garnered bi-partisan support for Legislation to remove the USPS prefunding requirement and reverse the WEP/GPO.

Impeachment: The impeachment has been dominating the news cycle for weeks now, and I, for one, am happy to see the end of the continuous barrage of impeachment news, (i.e.) quid pro quo, whistle blower, new revelations, Russia, Ukraine, etc.. However, the issue of President Trump's suitability to remain in office will be decided in November by the electorate, which put him into the White House in 2016. Check your voter registration and, no matter who you vote for, ensure that your voice will be heard.



Service Officer Report

Michael Ryan, Service Officer Chapter 1664
NJ Federation Membership Chair

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

Franz Wigle	88	Jan 9	EHT	FAA
Hannah Dixon	77	Jan 9	South Carolina	FAA
Gilda Elanor Franscadore	102	Jan 20	Ocean City	DOD
Linda L Robinson	72	Jan 21	EHT	FAA
Elanor Sacks	90	Jan 22	Ocean City	
Daniel A Petitt	70	Jan 29	West Creek	FAA
Diane L Wilson	73	Jan 25	Cape May	FAA

Annual Member Saving – Annually renewing members can save \$18, or \$6 per year by converting to a 3-year membership. Call 800-456-8410 #1 to make this change or log on to your account at NARFE.ORG with your membership number from your magazine mailing label.

Secure Act of 2019 – Stretch IRAs were killed after being around for 45 years! Congress recently passed a spending bill including the attached “Secure Act”. It made significant changes to IRA provisions. Beneficiary children may no longer take RMDs based on their life expectancy. They must take a tax disadvantageous 10-year payout. Effective December 31, 2019, the cutoff age changed from 70 ½ to 72 for both making IRA contributions, and for drawing RMDs. An article suggested low tax rates between now and the end of 2025 may be optimal for IRA withdrawals or systematic conversion to a Roth IRA. See your tax advisor.

Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2018 - Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) now affects far fewer people, because of major changes. According to The Motley Fool:

- The amount of income that taxpayers can exclude from their AMT taxable income has increased and is now indexed to inflation annually.
- The income thresholds at which the AMT exemption begins to phase out have dramatically increased.
- Many itemized deductions have been eliminated, which took away some major triggers for the AMT.
- The U.S. tax brackets are generally lower than they previously were, but the AMT tax brackets haven't changed.

REAL ID – Airplane travel after October 1 requires a Real ID Driver License, or Passport. Without a yellow circle with a white star on your Driver’s License, you need to sign up and pay \$11.00. Cardiff DMV is beta testing issuing REAL ID by appointment only. To sign up for notification when appointments are available: <https://www.state.nj.us/mvc/realid/>

Membership Data – Corrections to the membership database can be made either online or by phone. It is easy for officers to submit online corrections to Chapter Member data for email address, phone and other contact information. If a member is missing from the Chapter Membership list, a call to NARFE Membership Services is required. A membership number is helpful for calls to Membership Services to help find missing members.

GOTV – “Get Out the Vote” is a non-partisan voter registration program that NARFE supports. If a student is away at college, send them an absentee ballot. If a person has relocated, remind them to register in their new district. The Board of Elections in Mays Landing has franked voter forms useful to both new voters and relocated voters. Alternately, a multi-state tool for relocating and new voters is website: <https://www.vote411.org/register>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEB 19 LUNCHEON MEETING 1:00 – 3:00; SHORE DINER, 6710 TILTON ROAD, EGG HARBOR TWP. SPEAKER: SUSAN COHEN, BALANCE TESTING

MAR 18 LUNCHEON MEETING 1:00 – 3:00; SHORE DINER, 6710 TILTON ROAD, EGG HARBOR TWP.

APR 15 LUNCHEON MEETING 1:00 – 3:00; SHORE DINER, 6710 TILTON ROAD, EGG HARBOR TWP.

(President's Corner Continued)

As I indicated above, times are a-changin' and they're a-changin' at lightning speed! In no special order, just when I feel inclined to think about impeachment, I'm then suddenly inclined to think about a virus, then I'm inclined to think about deregulation, then Van Drew, then guns, then climate, then a border wall, then an assassination, then I'm inclined to think about Russia, Iran, China, then earthquakes, fires, Brexit, Super Bowl, Iowa, and the State of the Union. In every setting that I'm in, there always seems to be "an elephant in the room" and

it's exhausting. It seems that I'm inclined to muse about a myriad of important subjects every minute of every day. They're my "INCLINATIONS." What are your "INCLINATIONS?" Could we start a column in our monthly Newsletter called "INCLINATIONS" and give members an opportunity to speak their voice briefly on what they're inclined to think about regarding current topics - keeping it short and sweet - apolitical, though I know the danger of partisanship would exist - no propaganda - there would be editorial prerogatives - imagine adding a new flavor to our monthly missive diet? Think about it and let's discuss at our next meeting.

Meanwhile, I again invite you to my solo exhibition of photography, February 1-29, at the Ocean City Arts Center Gallery, 2nd Floor, 1735 Simpson Avenue, Ocean City, N.J. 08226. Happy Valentine's month!

Gary Levy, President, Chapter 1664

FEBRUARY MEETING - BALANCE TESTING

Our presenter last month, Susan Cohen, has volunteered to provide individual balance testing free of charge for attendees at this month's meeting. If you are interested and have not signed up yet, please send a message to: narfe1664@gmail.com to reserve a space. Please include your name and a telephone number for confirmation. The testing takes approximately 15 minutes. Current times available are 12:00, 12:15, 3:00, 3:15, 3:30 and 3:45.p.m. on the day of the meeting, February 19, at the Shore Diner. We may be able to add more times if demand is high.



Honors for Outgoing President Rodney Guishard

Incoming President, Gary Levy, honored outgoing President, Rodney Guishard at the January meeting by presenting him with a beautiful photo of the Statue of Liberty which Gary recently photographed.