



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

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Legislators' Phone Numbers

Senator Cory Booker
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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

JULY 17 LUNCHEON MEETING

SHORE DINER, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

The next meeting of the NARFE South Jersey Shore Chapter will be on Wednesday, July 17 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the Shore Diner, located at 6710 Tilton Road, Egg Harbor Township.

Our speaker will talk about hearing and balance issues. 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 you all had a wonderful day July 4th celebrating our country's independence. I've been watching the current administration's attempts to move the Department of Agriculture 1000 miles away from their labs from Washington to Kansas Cit. Keep in mind these

are the same labs that were responsible for the research with British scientists who joined them in this country to create penicillin! To move a department away from their function and to tell employees they have to move or be fired is not appropriate. The cost savings for this move have been wildly overestimated because of the refusal of many scientists to move. The loss of government brain power in USDA will be staggering. This follows the administration telling scientists across the government what they can and can't say, regardless of what their research shows. That is painful for the scientists, the agencies and the world.

We should be using civil service to lead the world in science, climate change and other worldwide problems. I would like to see NARFE become involved in these broader issues as well as keeping abreast of our own pay and benefits. We need to make ourselves more relevant to world issues and world problems. Our civil servants and laboratories could make a huge difference to the problems facing the world today.

(President's Corner continued on page 4)

Inside This Issue

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



LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Tom DeFiore, Legislative Officer, Chapter 1664

Congressional District Leaders (CDL) Meeting: A NARFE NJ CDL Meeting was conducted on 9 July 2019. The two-fold purpose of the meeting was to:

- Encourage CDL's to schedule a face-to-face meeting with their Legislators in their NJ Office during their scheduled 5-30 Aug Recess
- Prepare CDL's for said visit

The results of the meeting will be presented during the Chapter 1664 meeting on 17 July.

The Blue Dog Coalition is an official caucus in the U.S. House of Representatives comprised of fiscally-responsible Democrats, who are leading the way to find commonsense solutions. They are pragmatic Democrats, appealing to the mainstream values of the American public. Blue Dogs are dedicated to pursuing fiscally-responsible policies, ensuring a strong national defense, thus transcending party lines to get things done for the American people. Perhaps, I may have finally found my place in the political spectrum.

Rep. Van Drew (NJ-2) is Co-Chair of the Blue Dog Task Force on National Security, which is calling for a Comprehensive Bipartisan Effort to Secure U.S. Elections. Blue Dogs' primary goal in Congress is to work together to make sure that this term is not wasted on contentious investigations, which have the potential to 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. 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." (From Jeff Van Drew Press release)

OPM → GSA: (We've dodged the bullet) The House of Representatives passed the fiscal year 2020 (FY20) Financial Services and General Government appropriations bill, H.R. 3351. In addition to providing an average pay raise of 3.1 percent, the highest in ten years, the appropriations legislation also blocks funding for the administration's Office of Personnel Management (OPM) reorganization plan to transfer many of OMB's functions to the General Services Administration (GSA)

The administration issued an ultimatum that unless the OPM→GSA plan passes, OPM will have to furlough and eventually lay off 150 career employees. This action is meant to address a budget shortfall at OPM caused by the transfer of the National Background Investigations Bureau (NBIB) from OPM to DoD. NBIB brought in \$70 million in revenue for the agency, and the loss of that revenue would leave a budget deficit at OPM. The bill includes increased funding for OPM to offset the budget shortfall and an amendment, barring OPM from carrying out the proposed layoffs.

From its outset, NARFE strongly opposed this move, which would provide the Administration an open-ended vehicle to cut/modify benefits without Congressional Oversight. Clearly, **OPM → GSA** would politicize the federal service and could be the first step to undoing the Civil Service Reform Act's job security provisions. In the long term, moving OPM to GSA could become most destructive to the federal community. To their credit, the House passed Legislation, which would retain OPM as is. KUDOS to NARFE and the House!



MICHAEL RYAN
SERVICE OFFICER, CHAPTER 1664

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

Virginia Gowdy	-	June 7	EHT	USPS
Harriet Grace Horner	75	June 17	Lynchburg, VA	FAA

NARFE WEBINARS

There are some excellent webinars available from the narfe.org site. Simply log in with your name and password (or if you haven't visited online yet, sign up to read articles and visit webinars for free. These are newer ones that are available.

Your Best Retirement Date (live – register online).
60 minute webinar, Thursday, July 11, 2019

Special Category Feds: Retirement Rules and Exceptions (June 13, 2019)
[60 Minute Webinar](#) | [Q&A Transcript](#) | [Slides](#) (pdf)

Understanding CSRS Offset (May 23, 2019)
[60 Minute Webinar](#) | [Q&A Transcript](#) | [Slides](#) (pdf)

Divorce, Remarriage and Federal Benefits (April 11, 2019)
[60 Minute Webinar](#) | [Q&A Transcript](#) | [Slides](#) (pdf)

Social Security: A Key Ingredient in Your Retirement (March 21, 2019)
[60 Minute Webinar](#) | [Q&A Transcript](#) | [Slides](#) (pdf)

TSP and You: Sound Savings Strategies (March 7, 2019)
[60 Minute Webinar](#) | [Q&A Transcript](#) | [Slides](#) (pdf)

Four Simple Steps to a Smooth Retirement (February 7, 2019)
[60 Minute Webinar](#) | [Q&A Transcript](#) | [Slides](#) (pdf)

Plan Ahead, Pay Less Tax Strategies for Feds (January 24, 2019)
[60 Minute Webinar](#) | [Q&A Transcript](#) | [Slides](#) (pdf)

Federal and Military Service: How to Maximize Your Benefits (January 10, 2019)
[60 Minute Webinar](#) | [Q&A Transcript](#) | [Slides](#) (pdf)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY 17 LUNCHEON MEETING 1:00 – 3:00; SPEAKER FROM THE BACHARACH HEARING AND BALANCE CENTER. LOCATION: SHORE DINER, 6710 TILTON ROAD, EGG HARBOR TWP., NJ

AUG 21 LUNCHEON MEETING 1:00 – 3:00; SHORE DINER, 6710 TILTON ROAD, EGG HARBOR TWP., NJ

Sept 2 Labor Day

(President's Corner Continued)

Many of you know that I have been frustrated with the lack of progress in my recovery. When I was in rehab, it appeared I was improving daily. However, once I moved back home, I began to notice a regression. Things I had been able to do, I was no longer able to do easily. At the advice of one of my doctors, I had a recent MRI to see what was going on. Based on those results, it appears that I had a second stroke which was causing the lack of progress. Though this

is discouraging, I am determined to move forward and regain the functions I had earlier. I am so fortunate to have had my wife, Helen, by my side throughout. Without her love and support, I don't know what I would be doing now. Tonight, I am enjoying my family, especially my grandchildren, and savoring every minute.

We had a good meeting last month with "Name That Tune." Some of you may remember the television show of the same name. It turns out that as we age, we can lose various functions, but our memory of music is one of the last to go. In research with patients having dementia, they are still able to remember music. We tested that with a version of Name that Tune where we tried to recall the names and artists who recorded various songs. We all had a great time recalling those songs from our youth.

Our next meeting on July 17 promises to be equally good when we will have a speaker from the Bacharach Hearing and Balance Center. Several people at the last meeting said this would be a topic that would be of interest. We are always looking for speakers, so if there is a topic you would like to know more about, please let us know. I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting!

Rodney Guishard, President, Chapter 1664

**I am proud to announce
that I **completed** the **1st**
item on my **bucket list**.**



I have the bucket.