



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

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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)

(202) 225-4765

Congressman Chris Smith (Dist. 4)

(609) 585-7878 or (202) 225-3765

March 20 - LUNCHEON MEETING

SHORE DINER, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

The next meeting of the NARFE South Jersey Shore Chapter will be on Wednesday, March 20 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the Shore Diner, located at 6710 Tilton Road, Egg Harbor Township. Chris Seher will be our guest speaker and will talk on the Influence of Politics in Atlantic County.

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.



Legislative Report

Tom DeFiore, Legislative Officer, Chapter 1664

LEGcon19: Along with three fellow Officers of the NARFE NJ Federation, I attended NARFE's biennial Legislative Training Conference in Alexandria, VA from 10-13 March. The theme of

the training was a description and analysis of NARFE's Advocacy Program for the 116th Congress, along with preferred methods of communicating NARFE's issues. NARFE advocacy primarily focuses on the following priorities:

- Protecting federal and postal retirees' existing retirement and health benefits from reductions and/or erosion.
- Protecting federal civilian and postal employees' pay, retirement and health benefits.
- Protecting the viability, stability and standard of service of established federal government functions.
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Advocacy Program for the 116th Congress The complete text of NARFE's Advocacy Program can be found on NARFE's web address at:

<https://www.narfe.org/pdf/l-2.pdf>

The text was too extensive to completely insert in my Legislative Column, however, below are what I consider the salient issues.

- **FEDERAL RETIREMENT BENEFITS**

- Support changing the CPI-W (Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers) to the CPI-E (Consumer Price Index

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for the Elderly) as the standard for determining the annual COLA

- Support legislation to repeal the increase in pension contributions of new federal employees, enacted in February 2012 and December 2013. Opposes other future reductions in federal retirement benefits.
- Support legislation to provide equitable tax treatment of government retirement benefits comparable with Social Security.

- **SOCIAL SECURITY**

- Support the repeal or reform of the Social Security Government Pension Offset (GPO)
- Support raising the Social Security payroll tax cap to cover a greater amount of annual earnings for those with higher incomes.
- Support indexing the income threshold on taxable Social Security benefits.

- **FEDERAL PAY AND WORKFORCE POLICIES**

- Support full implementation of federal employee pay parity as reflected in the Federal Employees Pay Comparability Act of 1990 (P.L. 101-509)
- Support providing federal employees paid parental leave.

- **HEALTH CARE**

- Ensure that all FEHB enrollees receive the same level of prescription drug coverage, by plan;
- Support Legislation to amend Section 125 of the tax code to allow federal retirees and survivors to pay their share of FEHB insurance premiums with pretax annuities;
- Oppose reduction in government contributions toward FEHB premiums;

- **MEDICARE:**

- Protect Medicare’s guarantee of basic health security for older Americans at affordable/and predictable prices
- Apply the effect of the hold harmless provision to all Medicare beneficiaries permanently
- Preserve the current Medicare fee-for-service program, including the ability to select the physician of your choice;

- **U.S. POSTAL SERVICE REFORM.**

- Support legislation to maintain the service standards in place as of July 2012, including preservation of six delivery days per week by the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) nationwide and to-the-door delivery at its 2012 levels
- Support legislation to relieve the U.S. Postal Service of its overly burdensome requirement to prefund its future retiree health care obligations that are estimated to accrue over the next 75 years.
- Oppose adding conditions, such as a requirement to enroll in Medicare Part B, to the continued receipt of FEHB

Note: This column was composed prior to the training, however the training’s content was known to the attendees in advance.

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:

Lucy M. Mattera	93	February 7	Mays Landing, NJ	US Post Office
Franz Georg Lassner		February 20	Cape May CH, NJ	Defense Intel. Agency
Robert Piech	82	February 20	Little Egg Harbor, NJ	US Post Office
Linus Normal Rebhorn	85	February 21	Cape May CH, NJ	Office of Pers Mgt.
Thomas A Grygotis	79	March 1	Absecon, NJ	FAA Technical Center
Anthony F. Damiano	86	March 2	Linwood, NJ	FAA Technical Center

MEMBERSHIP

The Center News (FAA Technical Center) accepted a ¼ page ad from our NARFE Chapter. You can access the Center News from our Chapter web page or directly at <http://nafec-association.org/the-center-news/> Refer to page 11. The ad included our Christmas meeting photograph and a link to our web site. Many thanks to Editor Cathy Jaggard for providing this ad as a courtesy. Last month's Chapter Newsletter were mailed to Prospective Members identified on the ORM, Online Reports Module, of the NARFE.ORG website. The ORM is a new tool, available to Chapter Officers.

CHAPTER BYLAWS

Thanks to Gary Levy for drafting Chapter Bylaws. This is in response to a New Jersey Federation initiative to combine Bylaws and Constitutions. This should be a discussion item at meetings in coming months.

FEDERATION MEETING

The Biennial Meeting will be held in Hazlet on Wednesday, April 17. The speaker is listed as National President, Ken Thomas. The last biennial meeting was attended by Rodney, Larry, Tom and Mike. Also, Federation is having an Executive Board meeting April 3. Registration form is on page 4 of this newsletter.

From Government Executive – G-Fund and Proposed Retirement Changes

Treasury Suspends G Fund Investments; Retirement Programs Could Become More Generous and More

By Erich Wagner

Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin informed Congress this week that his department would cease its investment in two federal retirement programs as part of its extraordinary measures intended to delay running into the debt ceiling. On Saturday, the federal government hit its borrowing limit, and [last week](#) Mnuchin informed Congress that he would be suspending the department's issuance of State and Local Government Series securities. Mnuchin followed up Monday, sending Congress a [letter](#) informing lawmakers that he would suspend investments in the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund, as well as the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Government Executive, continued)

MAR 20: LUNCHEON MEETING 1:00 – 3:00; LOCATION: SHORE DINER, 6710 TILTON ROAD, EGG HARBOR TWP., NJ
GUEST SPEAKER: CHRIS SEHER WILL SPEAK ON THE INFLUENCE OF POLITICS IN ATLANTIC COUNTY.

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

APR 17: LUNCHEON MEETING TBD (MAY BE CANCELLED DUE TO FEDERATION CONFERENCE)

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

And on Tuesday, the Treasury secretary informed House Speaker Nancy Pelosi that he would [suspend investment](#) in the Thrift Savings Plan's G Fund, which is made up of government securities, to avoid breaching the debt ceiling. With these actions, and an influx in revenues when federal income taxes are due in April, officials believe the Treasury Department can continue to fund government operations "for several months" before Congress will need to act to raise the debt limit again. Lawmakers hope to do so when they pass appropriations bills to set spending for the 2020 fiscal year this fall.

Federal employees should not worry too much about their retirement savings, though. Mnuchin told Congress that once the debt limit is raised, his department will make these investment funds whole once again.

Elsewhere on Capitol Hill, some lawmakers plan to introduce legislation to make the federal government's defined benefit retirement programs more generous. This would include changing from CPI-W as the formula for computing COLAs for retirees, to the CPI-E formula which more accurately represents costs retirees face. To read the full article in Government Executive, go to: <https://bit.ly/2EVk4ze>

Registration form for NARFE Federation Biennial Convention

**THIS WILL BE THE ONLY FORM THAT WILL BE
ACCEPTED FOR THE CONVENTION REGISTRATION**

ONE FORM PER PERSON PLEASE

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

MEMBER: YES ___ NO ___ **CHAPTER:** _____

GUEST: YES ___ NO ___

**PLEASE COMPLETE THIS REGISTRATION FORM AND
SEND IT ALONG WITH A CHECK MADE OUT TO NARFE IN
THE AMOUNT OF \$25.00 PER PERSON AND RETURN IT
TO THE NJ FEDERATION TREASURER NO LATER THEN
APRIL 5, 2019.**

**CARL FASCIO
22 DAYTON LANE
MANALAPAN, NJ 07726
PHONE: 732-409-6770**

Cost per member is \$25.00, which includes breakfast and upscale buffet lunch. Coffee, tea and water will be provided all day.

There will be a \$5.00 Late Charge for submitting registration forms later than April 5, 2019.

Schedule:

Registration:	8:30 – 9:45
Breakfast:	8:45 – 9:45
General Session:	10:00
Morning Break:	11:30
Lunch:	12:45 – 1:30
Afternoon Break:	2:45 – 3:00

Location:

The Grammercy at Lakeside Manor 410
Route 36 E,
Hazlet, NJ 07730
732-739-2700