



**NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL  
EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION/MEUNIER-PERRY  
CHAPTER 1015  
Newsletter Update for the Month of July  
2020**

**Events to Look Forward To**

**\*Chapter 1015 Picnic\***

**December 10, 2020**

**\*Subject to Change\***

**Messages from the President**

**Blake Crawford**

**NARFE July 2020**

**No Meetings this Month**

As usual, we will have no full membership or Executive Board meetings in July, a decision made simpler by the prevalence of Covid-19. We normally stay closed in August, and expect to do so this year. We will keep you up to date through this newsletter. So ...

**Stay in and Vote!**

The typical advice come election season is usually "get out and vote." Well, NARFE needs a different response from us this year. It's "Stay in and vote!" While you are following the advice of CDC to wear a mask, socially distance from others, wash your hands often, and stay home as much as you can, spend a little time with the June/July issue of NARFE Magazine. It has a summary of all 21 NARFE ballot items for this year, many of which are related to our organization's finances.

For example, item B-2020 would increase annual member dues from \$40 to \$48.

Item S-2005 would reduce the new member dues returned to the chapters, putting more pressure on chapter budgets. For new members who join a chapter when they join NARFE, one-sixth of the membership fee would be returned to the chapter in place of first-year dues. This is half the current rate received by chapters.

Item B-2021 would reduce member dues rebates to Federations from 10% to 5%, putting more pressure on the state offices organization's finances.

If these proposals get your attention, pop on over to the NARFE website and read more about these and other proposals submitted for your vote. Kathy Hensley, National Secretary/Treasurer, advises members to be careful voting on by-laws and especially the dues increase amendment.

Anytime by-laws are changed, there will be an "up-and-down" impact on federations and some chapters who will have to re-write their by-laws, she said at the June 25 Zoom meeting of the SC Federation officers and chapter presidents.

Don't forget the NARFE national elections. Ken Thomas is running unopposed for re-election as President, and SC-native Kathy Hensley is running for re-election as National Secretary/Treasurer versus Cindy Renee Blythe of Region V.

Read Kathy's thoughtful statement on the challenges, problems, and successes of NARFE. Kathy received the unanimous endorsement of the SC Federation officers' and chapter presidents' meeting in June.

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## **Continued: Messages from the President**

In the other race relevant to us, Clarence Robinson is running unopposed to continue as Region III VP.

Voting begins online July 20 and by paper ballot from the August magazine. Voting closes at 11:59 pm on Aug 31, 2020.

Remember, we get the kind of governing we deserve, and the voter turnout for NARFE elections for several years had been pitifully small. Your vote will make a difference.

### **National office status**

From the NARFE website, accessed July 12, 2020:

“On Friday, July 3, a NARFE staff member who had been on site at NARFE headquarters alerted us that he or she had tested positive for COVID-19.

“Due to our staggered work schedule and mask-wearing/hand-washing mandates, very few people were at risk of being exposed. Nonetheless, in accordance with CDC and Virginia Department of Health protocols regarding the transmission of COVID-19, we have closed the headquarters building through July 16 (reopening on July 17) and communicated with our staff about next steps to take.

“Since the original pandemic closure in March, NARFE operations have become more flexible and agile. Employees with the ability and capacity to work from home will continue to do so through the closure; some staff will be furloughed for the period.”

## **Continued: Messages from the President**

### **Member Services**

To request NARFE member services, call 800-456-8410 or go here for a list of active NARFE emails:

<https://www.narfe.org/communications/index.cfm?fa=viewArticle&ID=4715>

### **Newsletter Editor**

**Billie Nichols**

### **Chapter Meetings**

**General Meeting-no meetings for July and August 2020.**

**Executive Board Meeting-No meetings for July and August 2020.**

**Chapter Membership as of July 15=148 Members**

**Two new prospective members pending completing transfer requests to Chapter 1015**

**Pat Schemn and Bob Roddy**

**A full Chapter 1015 Newsletter will not be published for July and August 2020.**

**This is an abbreviated newsletter for July 2020 to keep you informed about our chapter and NARFE for July and August.**

**Alice Villavicencio**

**Alzheimer's Research Officer, NARFE Chapter 1015**

**TIP FOR THE MONTH OF JULY:**

**CONTINUE TO WEAR A MASK IN PUBLIC PLACES, WASH HANDS OFTEN, SOCIAL DISTANCE AND STAY HOME**

**RESEARCH NOTE:**

**MedPage Today recently reported that a group of British researchers found that a certain gene, which is the prevalent risk factor for Alzheimer's disease (Alzheimer's) is also associated with contracting the COVID-19 Virus. (COVID-19) The group collected genetic data of APOE3 and APOE4 from the UK Biobank (the Bank), a large long-term biobank study that began in 2006, in the United Kingdom, and is "investigating the respective contributions of genetic predisposition and environmental exposure to the development of the disease." *Wikipedia.***

**In the analysis of British persons with two copies of APOE4 gene, the highest risk factor in the development of Alzheimer's disease, the scientists found that persons with this gene also had the highest rate of testing positive for COVID-19. David Melzer, MBBCh, PH.D., of the University of Exeter in England, and his colleagues, assessed positive test data collected during mid-March to late-April 2020 from patients with signs of severe COVID-19. In their study, the researchers aligned the test results against the genotype data from the Biobank and found that persons with two copies of the APOE4 gene were more than twice as likely to develop COVID-19 than those with two copies of the APOE3 gene, which plays a neutral part in the development of Alzheimer's.**

**According to other investigators, including Advindra Nath, M.D. of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, Bethesda, Maryland, the study is limited because it excluded such factors as diagnoses of persons with dementia subsequent to the Bank's 2017 update (on this type of data); information on nursing home patients; and diagnoses of persons with mild cognitive impairment. Despite its need for more clarity, the study may provide perspectives into the possibilities of finding treatments for COVID-19.**

**<https://www.medpagetoday.com/infectiousdisease/covid19/86687>; and**

**<https://www.the-scientist.com/news-opinion/alzheimers-gene-linked-to-higher-risk-of-severe-covid-19-67570>**



## **Sunshine/Membership Chair**

**Lynn Vos**

**It has been a long time since we have been able to congregate so we would like to be sure we are updated on anything new going on in your life, good or bad. If you have had any changes or additions you would like to provide, please either respond to this message or call our Sunshine Chair, Lynn Vos at [843.748.0173](tel:843.748.0173). Updates would include changes in your email address, home phone and cell phone numbers, home address, etc. If you have not received a birthday card from us, please tell us your birthday...do not worry, we do not want to know the year...just the month and day. In this challenging time, we would certainly want to send out friendship, thinking of you or get well wishes to anyone who is ill, COVID-related or not, so if you or someone you know in Chapter 1015 needs to hear from us, please advise.**

**If you are getting bored, you might like to look at a couple of book recommendations, namely:**

**A Distant Mirror by Barbara W. Tuchman - The Calamitous 14th Century. It is not, repeat, not, as boring as it may sound, especially the chapter entitled, "This is the End of the World: The Black Death".**

**Favorite historian, Kenneth C. Davis, book entitled, "Don't Know Much About the Civil War". Another engaging, unborning book, summarizing civil war facts and stories. One excerpt from the book may make you weep:**

**Civil War Voices - Abolitionist and women's rights pioneer Sojourner Truth attended a women's rights convention in Ohio. In response to a man's comment that women were weak and inferior to men, baring her arms, she spoke (1851). "Ain't I a woman? Look at me. I have ploughed, planted and gathered into barns, and no man could head me! And ain't I a woman? I could work as much and eat as much as a man - when I could get it - and bear the lash as well! And ain't I a woman? I have borne THIRTEEN children, and seen most all sold off to slavery, and when I cried out with my mother's grief, none but Jesus heard me! And ain't I a woman?"**