



**NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED
FEDERAL EMPLOYEES
ASSOCIATION/MEUNIER-PERRY
CHAPTER 1015-NEWSLETTER
MYRTLE BEACH, SC
October 2018
Number 8**



**Messages from the President of Chapter
1015-Marci Vogel and Vice-President
Blake Crawford**

Welcome to October! We hope everyone fared well during Hurricane Florence, and today is safe, dry and living in an undamaged and un-flooded house.

Disaster Assistance-As you look for ways to help others; don't forget the Federal Employee and Education Assistance Fund (FEEA). FEEA offers grants of up to \$500 to full or part-time permanent federal civilian or postal employees employed with the federal government for more than one year. Eligible expenses include major home repairs not covered by insurance, temporary lodging, and beds destroyed in the disaster. For information on applying for grants or how to donate, visit <https://feaa.org>.

Two Meetings This Month-Chapter 1015 has two meetings this month! Our regular, full-membership, business meeting will be held Oct. 18 at Damon's, at 11:30 AM as usual. Our guest speaker will be Anne Marie Usher, who will have the latest information from Blue Cross Blue Shield about its 2019 FEHB Open Season health plan offerings. Our second meeting is our rescheduled summer picnic, October 25 at Myrtle Beach State Park. Don't forget to call Linda Pagani to confirm your attendance. See page 4 for picnic details.

CONTINUED:

More on Health Insurance-Our speaker for the Nov. 15 regular business meeting will be Susan Allgood of Aetna Direct who will discuss its 2019 Open Season plan.

NARFE Medicare Webinar

NARFE is offering a new webinar, "FEHB and Medicare: Understanding Your Choices," on October 11 at 2 PM. Free to NARFE members, the webinar will seek to help you make the **BEST CHOICE** to help lower your premiums and increase your coverage. For details, visit www.narfe.org.

Speakers Wanted-Chapter 1015 is looking for meeting speakers you would like to hear! We plan to reschedule speakers originally slated for September from Freedom Readers, a tutoring and mentoring program for low income children, and Neighbor to Neighbor, a free ride service for those over 60 or who have chronic illnesses or disabling conditions.

If you have other organizations you would like to hear from at a chapter meeting, let Blake Crawford (blake_cra@msn.com) or any executive board member know.

Legislative Report

Cathy Linta-Leader

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

A Senate committee advanced the 2018 Reforming Government Act which begins the process for the Administration to implement proposals unveiled this summer under the reorganization plan. Changes proposed would shift Office of Personnel Management (OPM) functions to other agencies, assign OPM human resources policy functions to the Executive Office of the President, and shift retirement and healthcare benefits programs to the General Services Administration who, under the reorganization, would become the Government Services Agency. The Administration has to send proposals to lawmakers who have 90 days to approve. An amendment was added to require a 60 vote approval rather than a 51 vote majority. The Amendment also requires the Congressional Budget Office to conduct a financial analysis of the proposals and describe how each would improve the government and delivery of services.

A Government Executive article stated the task force report due regarding the Postal Service will not be released until after mid-term elections. As a reminder, Trump gave a group of Treasury, OPM, and Office of Management and Budget officials four months to submit a report that was due August 10. The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee will set a hearing on the findings when they are released.

H. Res. 993 is a rebuttal to the Trump administration's proposal to privatize the Postal Service. The resolution states Congress should take all appropriate measures to ensure the Postal Service remains an independent establishment and is not subject to privatization.

Trump signed a spending bill that avoids a government shutdown and keeps the government open until December 7.

The 1.9% pay increase for civilian federal employees stalled during House and Senate negotiations. As a reminder, the President wants to freeze all pay.

Please check page 39 of the October 2018 NARFE magazine to see how Senators Lindsey Graham and Tim Scott, and Congressman Tom Rice voted on issues listed on pages 29 and 30. In summary, Graham's position mirrored NARFE's on 3 out of the 6 issues, Scott's 5 out of 6, and Rice 5 out of 8.

Voice your support/opposition by contacting Senators Graham and Scott, and Congressman Rice. Remember, Tom Rice is up for re-election in November. Check www.narfe.org for pre-drafted letters.

NARFE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

UPDATE

The election results for NARFE National President were posted October 3, 2018 on www.narfe.org and **Ken Thomas is NARFE's new president starting on November 1, 2018.**

Messages from the Newsletter Editor

Billie Nichols

New Medicare cards are currently being mailed to eligible Medicare members in South Carolina. Keep an eye on your mailbox - your new Medicare card is on the way.

Mailing cards takes at least a month, so you might get your new Medicare card at a different time than friends or neighbors in your area. You can still use your old Medicare Card until your new card arrives.

Alzheimer's Research Officer

Linda Kossow-Pagani

Walk to end Alzheimer's is October 27 at Market Commons 9AM. I will be there even though I haven't built up enough endurance yet to walk a mile. We need more NARFE 1015 participation. We can donate money, collect contributions from others, and most of all, be there!

Our participation is important. Please let me know if you can be there (843-424-2632). Any contributions should indicate on your check that they are from NARFE Chapter 1015.

TIME magazine has a special edition out called "The Science of Alzheimer's". It is a 96 page explanation of what it is how it touches us, and hopes. I highly recommend it.

OLLI Update

Coastal Carolina University and its Osher Lifelong Learning Institute re-opened on Oct. 1 after closing for the storm.

Registered OLLI students and instructors have been informed of delays, cancellations, and rescheduling. Advice: call or visit an OLLI Center in Conway, Litchfield, or Georgetown if there is a course in the catalog that interests you. OLLI staff can tell you if it's still taking place. Many classes scheduled to begin this week or after are still open for enrollment.



Picnic in the Park will be held

October 25, 2018

at 11:30AM

Place: Myrtle Beach State Park

Shelter A

Cost \$6.00 per person which will be collected at the picnic.

Our Chef, Don Pagani, will prepare sausages, hotdogs, and hamburgers. The chapter will provide hamburgers, hot dogs & rolls, sausages, condiments, cups, plates & utensils. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. When you make the reservations let us know what dish you plan to bring. The shelter is covered and has picnic tables & benches. If you want to sit outside, bring your chair. To share cars and save a \$5.00 parking fee to get into the park, meet at 11:15AM in the parking lot in front of where the Flea Market used to be. Please make your reservations by Monday, October 22, 2018. You may call Linda at 843-424-2632.

We will play bingo for prizes, and have an extra raffle for special prizes. Please be reminded there is a fee to enter the park. Those who have a yearly pass can enter free with a car full of people.

Sunshine and Membership/Committee

Lynn Vos

Happy Birthdays for October

Irene Litchy, Verifas Weaver, Cora Bogans, Helen Dear, Suzanne Palmer,

Linda-Kossow Pagani