



**NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL  
EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION/MEUNIER-PERRY  
CHAPTER 1015  
MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA  
May 2020 NEWSLETTER-ISSUE 5**

**President's Message**

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**Message from the Vice-President  
Marci Vogel**

**I hope everyone is well and has escaped the coronavirus. It has been 3 months of staying safe, wearing a mask, and social distancing. UGH, WHEN WILL IT END? I am keeping my fingers crossed. Well, just remember we are all in this together and we will get through it together. GOD BLESS AMERICA! Hope to see you soon.**

**Chapter Headlines**

**Rescheduled and Scheduled Events**

**\*Subject to Change\***

**June 4, 2020**

**Annual NARFE Chapter Picnic at the  
Lodge postponed until Fall**

**December 10, 2020**

**Annual Christmas Party**

**11:30 am at the Lodge**

**(Subject to change-Stay tuned for  
monthly updates on this  
COMING EVENT)**

**Message from the President**

**Blake Crawford**

**Unfortunately, this message once again focuses on the COVID-19 pandemic and its implications for our lives.**

**As of May 11, South Carolina has suffered more than 7,600 virus-related infections and 331 deaths. Serious outbreaks are routine in many states. Doctors find new ways in which COVID-19 attacks the body. Infections have reached the upper levels of the U.S. Government, including the White House. The economic and public health damage is deep.**

**Here at home, Gov. Henry McMaster on May 1 announced that the statewide "Work-or-Home" order was lifted and returned to voluntary status, effective Monday, May 4.**

**The governor also announced that beginning on May 11, restaurants throughout South Carolina may provide indoor customer dining services in addition to existing take-out, curbside, and delivery services, subject to health guidelines.**

**At the same time, Gov. McMaster and the state epidemiologist, Dr. Linda Bell, strongly urged anyone considered "at-risk" based on CDC guidance to limit exposure to others and for all South Carolinians to continue prioritizing their travels between home and work, when possible. Anybody who is sick or is showing symptoms of COVID-19 should immediately contact a healthcare provider and self-quarantine for a minimum of 14 days. "South Carolinians, now more than ever, should be vigilant in protecting themselves, their loved ones, and their communities by practicing social distancing and continuing to follow the advice and recommendations from our public health experts," Gov. McMaster said in announcing the partial "re-opening" of the state.**

**Nevertheless, the number of coronavirus infections continues to increase. Older people and those with underlying medical conditions remain at high risk. Social gatherings and enclosed places where people live and work closely together indoors for extended periods – homes, prisons, meat processing plants, weddings, funerals, birthday parties, restaurants, and of course nursing homes -- are frequently cited as sources of infectious outbreaks. Continued on Page 2**

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For us in NARFE Chapter 1015, that means we will still wait to resume our normal activities. The full membership luncheon meeting and executive committee meetings previously scheduled for May are canceled. We are also postponing until Fall the annual chapter picnic, originally scheduled for June 4. We don't know yet when we'll be able to make a decision, but we will stay in touch. In the meantime, stay safe, stay healthy, and look out for one another. And let us know if you would like to try to meet online.

**Do You Zoom?** Let any executive committee member know if you're interested in a future membership or executive committee meeting online via Zoom. Zoom is a service that facilitates small and large video meetings via the internet. It's been a lifeline for many people, including CCU students, over the last two months. It requires a home computer or IPAD, as well as internet access. The free version of the software is easily downloadable. It's user-friendly, but a practice session before the meeting is generally a good idea.

I have been in Zoom classes and meetings this spring as a participant but have not moderated one. If you've been zooming, drop me an email or a call. If there is enough interest, we may give it a try.

### **NARFE's FedCON Scheduled for August**

NARFE's premier national conference is still scheduled for late summer. FedCON20 will be held Aug 31 - Sept. 1 at the Westin Kierland Resort and Spa in Scottsdale, AZ. See pages 58-59 of your May *NARFE Magazine*.

**National NARFE Elections:** Elections will take place in late summer, including votes on national officers and regional vice presidents. Candidate statements were published in the March NARFE Magazine. The ballot for national officers, regional vice presidents, and bylaws referendums will be published in the August issue, available in late July.

## Continued from Page 1-President's Column

### **NARFE Benefits & Communications**

**NARFE's webinar on the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision**, both of which work to *reduce* the earned Social Security Benefits of retired Federal workers, will be held live on May 14 at 2 pm. Retirement and benefits expert Tammy Flanagan and NARFE Staff Vice President for Policy and Programs Jessica Klement will present on this top legislative priority for NARFE. If this notice does not reach you in time, "GPO and WEP: Understanding the Evil Twins," will be archived in the Federal Benefits section of NARFE.org.

**In the archive:** If you missed it, the April 21 webinar, **Managing Your Federal Retirement Benefits during the COVID-19 Crisis**, is archived and available to you now.

NARFE is publishing a combined issue of the magazine for June/July 2020. Look for it in late May.

### **SC Federation Newsletter Debuts**

The link in **red** below will take you to the latest electronic version of our redesigned federation newsletter. You should receive the paper copy of this newsletter in your mailboxes soon. The paper copy will be delivered to the more than 2,300 chapter and national members of our federation each quarter. You may also view the newsletter by going to the bottom of the home page at our federation website, [scnarfe.org](http://scnarfe.org).

To view the electronic version of the newsletter, [click here](#). As you read the newsletter, please note on page 3 that the suspense date for input for the August Federation newsletter is July 10. Let Billie Nichols or me know if you have stories or pictures, we should share.

Also, please let us know if you have any questions comments about the first edition of the South Carolina NARFE News.

## **Legislative Officer/Service Officer**

**Sherry Gainer**

**For the near future it will be 24/7 Covid-19 in Washington, and rightly so. Hopefully everyone has received the \$1200 CARE payment by now; those I know that had problems don't use electronic filing; send their IRS refund to the same account as their SS or annuity; file their taxes manually; apply their refunds to future taxes; or don't file or get refunds.**

**It is apparent that life as we knew it will not return soon but hopefully, Damon's and the rest of us will figure this out and we can resume our meetings this fall. In the meantime, stay safe and sanitized!**

### **COVID-19**

**HR 6496 Emergency Money for the People Act (EMPA): Introduced on April 14, 2020. This bill proposes a \$2000 monthly payment to adults with income less than \$130K for the next 12 months.**

**HR 6515 Rent and Mortgage Cancellation Act of 2020: Introduced on April 17, 2020. It will protect renters and mortgagors that cannot make monthly payments during the COVID-19 emergency.**

**HR 6553 Automatic Boost to Communities Act: Introduced on April 17, 2020. Proposes \$2000 monthly payments to at-risk population. 4% chance of passage.**

## **COVID-19-Continued**

**HR 748 CARES Act: Collection of 30 proposed bills from the house and Senate that was passed on March 27, 2020. This is the bill that provided the \$1200 stimulus checks, in addition, it increases unemployment checks by \$600 a week for 4 months; delays student loan payments; provides relief for those with federally backed mortgages; and provided loans and grants to hospitals, food banks and businesses. A provision to give USPS \$25M for emergency operations was deleted and replaced with a \$10M loan.**

### **USPS**

**HR 2382 USPS Fairness Act: Passed the house on February 5, 2020 and on to Senate. This bill removed the pre-funding of retiree health insurance premium mandate that is bankrupting USPS. Tom Rice voted NAY.**

### **COLA**

**HR 1254 Equal Cola Act: Adding co-sponsors**

### **WEP/GPO**

**HR 3934: Adding co-sponsors**

**S 3401: Referred to Senate Finance Committee**



## **Sunshine/Membership**

**Lynn Vos**

**Happy Birthdays for  
May**

**Donna Irving, Jessica Forman, Patricia  
Lemick, Gail Seavey,  
Judy Gale-Todd**

**Get well card sent to Becky Hyman**

**Friendship card also sent to Ron Strom**

**Please advise if there is someone you  
think should receive greetings during this  
uncertain period of time from our NARFE  
Chapter 1015. Call Lynn Vos at  
843-748-0173**

## **Sunshine Grin of the**

**Sunshine Grin-of-the-Month: You know  
you look bad when it comes to a group  
picture and they ask you to take  
it. (Actually, that wouldn't feel so bad  
right now, would it?)**



## **MOTHER'S CARE Dene Tothill Nichols**

**When my children were young, they, like most children, had viruses of some sort, which they did not mind sharing with their dear old mom. They always crawled in bed with me at the onset and that is where they stayed until the disease had run its course. I did not mind because I was able to keep a watchful eye on them and nap in between flare-ups. I knew there was a chance that I would contract the virus but my utmost concern was for my child's wellbeing. I wanted to be available upon demand. However, at one particular time, the threat seemed a little more foreboding and my own health seemed more at risk. Ordinarily, if I picked up the bug, I immediately headed for the bed and wound up looking like something the cats dragged in and the kittens refused to eat. This time I had a little time to get ready. I made a decision to prepare for my confinement. I might be sick as a dog, but I was determined to look like a movie star during my illness. When my son began to feel better, I got up changed the sheets on the bed, dragged out my prettiest nighties, freshened them up, even ironed them, washed my hair, did my nails arranged my make up in place and awaited the onset. Nothing happened! The moral to the story is even mothers cannot outsmart fate.**

**Happy Mother's Day**

## **U.S. Postal Service – No Laughing Matter**

### **Cathy Linta-Leader**

I worked for the Postal Service for thirty years. Like so many others, during my employment and now in retirement, I bled blue. Blue because we were proud we worked for the Postal Service and blue because the Postal Service and the service we provided raced through our veins. Now, I'm blue for a different reason. I'm blue because I'm saddened by what's happening to the Postal Service and its workforce, and the disparaging remarks that were recently made.

Louis DeJoy, formerly the CEO of a logistics company, will soon assume the helm as Postmaster General. He never worked for the Postal Service and is a significant donor to the President and the Republican Party. His wife, Aldona Wos, is President Trump's nominee for the U.S. Ambassador to Canada.

Rep. Gerry Connolly, D-Va., who oversees the Postal Service as chair of the House Oversight and Reform Subcommittee on Government Operations, accused President Trump of choosing DeJoy for political reasons. "The Postal Service is in crisis and needs real leadership and someone with knowledge of the issues." He warned the Postal Service could run out of money if an action was not taken.

Although the Postal Service Board of Governors requested \$75 billion in aid, the President opposed the financial relief, and subsequently, the CARES Act granted them a \$10 billion line of credit. Airline and hospitality industries were given massive relief but the Postal Service, with plummeting revenues, keeps delivering invoices, payments, and stimulus checks yet are not afforded the same.

At least a decade of declining mail volume and profits are now exacerbated by a steep drop off in revenue due to the coronavirus pandemic. Add to that the 2006 Congressional mandate requiring the Postal Service to prefund decades of future health care premiums for retired postal employees. No other federal agency faces this mandate and accounts for nearly 100% of the Postal Service's losses. In February, the House passed the USPS Fairness Act (H.R.2382), a repeal of the pre-funding requirement. The President should urge the Senate to pass the Senate companion bill (S.2965) and sign it into law.

## **Continued- Cathy Linta-Leader**

The President has suggested the Postal Service quadruple its prices on package delivery. While his intentions may be well placed such a policy would likely lead to the loss of competitive volume and higher prices. This would harm American consumers and millions of small businesses, especially those living in rural states and inner cities not well served by private shipping companies like Amazon. Whereas letter volume has certainly decreased during this pandemic, package deliveries have spiked as millions, sheltering in place, are ordering goods online.

Allowing the Postal Service to fail as we recently heard the President state would essentially divert business to Amazon and others like them, none of which can provide the universal first and last-mile delivery network, all at an affordable price. Now, during this pandemic, is not the time to significantly raise package rates. This pandemic is threatening the Postal Service at a time when its affordable, universal reach is needed more than ever.

Congress needs to inject cash and cover the Postal Service's losses over the next fiscal year or until the crisis passes. From the time, Benjamin Franklin was Postmaster General (1775) until 1970, taxpayers and postage funded the Postal Service. A temporary return to this dual-funding structure is needed now or the pandemic may kill this American institution.

President Trump and Congress must also work together and understand the value of the Postal Service, the cause of and solutions to its financial circumstances, and how to avoid losing what we have all taken for granted.

The situation is no joke as the President once described it. Ask me or anyone else who works/worked there and we will tell you it is certainly not a laughing matter.

**Newsletter Editor  
Billie Nichols**

**Chapter 1015 Membership as of  
May 13-150 members**

**As you already know, we have canceled our monthly Chapter Meetings for March, April, and May.**

**The Annual Chapter Picnic has also been postponed. We will keep you posted when we can reschedule the picnic.**

**In the meantime, stay safe, stay healthy and I hope to see you at the future meetings.**

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