



**National Active & Retired Federal Employees Association**  
Protecting Federal Worker Retirement Benefits Since 1921

4840 Cardiff Bay Drive  
Oceanside CA 92057-3413

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**FEBRUARY 2020** issue  
**FEDERAL RETIREE or  
FEDERAL WORKER?**

**Chapter Officers and Committee Chairs**

President	Tom Buggie	722-4691	Chaplain	Gloria Cortez	529-0751
1 <sup>st</sup> V.P.	Sara Baldwin	724-1859	Membership	Vacant	
2 <sup>nd</sup> V.P.	Gloria Cortez	529-0751	Editor Newsletter	Tom Buggie	722-4691
Secretary	Marcy Rose/Carol Amano	722-5309	Sunshine	Gloria Cortez	529-0751
Treasurer	Joe Beyer	758-5633			
Ways & Means	Duane J. Hill		Publicity	Vacant	
			Hospitality	Sara Baldwin	724-1859
Legislation (Nat'l)	Tom Buggie	722-4691	Public Relations	Vacant	
Chapter Website	Harold Nicholls		Alzheimer Coord.	Joe Beyer	758-5633
Service Officer	Marcy Rose	722-5309			
Service at Senior Center		435-5250			
By Appointment Only (call Marcy Rose)			District 1 V.P. Bob (Old Bob) Davidson		566-5980
Old Oceanside Senior Center			Chapter phone: (leave messages only)		760-722-4691
455 Country Club Lane			CHAPTER WEBSITE: <a href="http://www.NARFEchapter706.org">www.NARFEchapter706.org</a>		
Oceanside CA 92054					
			Senator Kamala D. Harris		619-239-3884
			600 B Street Ste 2240		202-224-3553
			San Diego CA 92101		
			Senator Dianne Feinstein		619-231-9712
			880 Front Street Ste 4236		202-224-3841
			San Diego CA 92101		
Congressman Levin's Oceanside Office		760-599-5000			
2204 El Camino Real Ste 314		202-225-3906			
Oceanside CA 92054					

**Chapter Meeting  
February 20, 2020  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of Each  
Month at 1:30PM**  
Except July, August & December  
**Country Club Ln  
Senior Center**  
Board Meetings @  
Country Club Ln Senior Cntr  
1<sup>st</sup> **Wednesday** each  
Month at 12:00Noon

**Treasurer's Report** as of January 31, 2020  
(By Joe Beyer)

Balance Forward (Checking)	\$2460.32
Receipts	165.66
Dividend	.21
<b>Total Checking Receipts</b>	<b>\$2626.19</b>
Total Disbursement	(50.00)
Less: Outstanding checks	0.00
<b>Net Disbursements</b>	<b>(\$50.00)</b>
Balance (Checking)	\$2,576.19
Balance on Hand for Use:	
Checking	\$2,576.19
CD Savings (opened 9-16-19)	7,583.84
<b>Total on Hand</b>	<b>\$10,160.03</b>

[www.NarfeChapter706.org](http://www.NarfeChapter706.org)

[www.NARFE/site/706/](http://www.NARFE/site/706/)



## SPEAKER

Contributed by Sara Baldwin, 1st VP

### FEBRUARY SPEAKER - SPINE HEALTH

Alfred Santos, GEHA Outreach Executive, will speak on the importance of spine health on Thursday, Feb 20<sup>th</sup> at the Oceanside Senior Center, 455 Country Club Lane, from 2-3PM. A free informational spine analysis will be provided to those who arrive a little early or stay after the presentation. The chapter will conduct a business meeting from 1:30-2PM.

### MARCH SPEAKER – SDG&E PRICING PLANS

Carolyn Ortiz, SDG&E Energy Specialist, will speak about the new Time of Use Pricing Plans on Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at the Oceanside Senior Center, 455 Country Club Lane, from 2-3PM. Come learn how to save on your energy costs. The chapter will conduct a business meeting from 1:30-2PM.



## LEGISLATIVE INFO

### HR 3934 - Equal Treatment of Public Servants Act of 2019, HR 4540 - Public Servants Protection and Fairness Act

Both of the above bills would modify the impact of the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). HR 3934 was introduced by the senior Republican on the Ways and Means Committee. HR 4540 was introduced by the Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee. This committee has sole jurisdiction over these bills.

We have gone over these bills in prior newsletters. The fate of both bills rests in the hands of Congressman Richard Neal, Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee. He can bring them to a vote whenever he chooses. He can also let them sit in his desk drawer until Congress adjourns this next December. The Democrats can get full credit if it passes and full blame if it doesn't. It is the Democrats decision. Congressman Levin cosponsored HR 4540 about one week after his local representative spoke at our November meeting.

HR 3934 currently has 44 cosponsors (41 R, 3 D), unchanged .

HR 4540 currently has 113 cosponsors (111 D, 2 R), up 27. Zero cosponsors are required to pass.

## USPS Continues to Lose Money

Volume in all classes of mail (1<sup>st</sup> class, marketing, and packages) fell in the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter over the same period last year (SPLY).

Postmaster General Megan Brennan called on Congress to enact legislative relief to enable the agency to find new ways to grow revenue and **cut statutorily mandated benefits** for employees. The Postal Service's compensation costs are growing faster than inflation, she said. She noted legislation the House passed this week to end the requirement that USPS prefund health benefits for future retirees was a positive step, but would do little to alleviate its [immediate cash flow problems](#).

'We continue to face systemic profitability challenges due to our restrictive business model and mandated costs,' Brennan said. "We will continue to aggressively pursue opportunities to generate profitable revenues and drive greater operational efficiencies under our current structure, while also seeking legislative and regulatory reforms to allow the Postal Service to better invest in our business, compete for customers, control our costs and serve the evolving needs of the public."

Source: Government Executive 2-8-2020

# Trump's 2021 Budget Would Slash Civilian Agencies, Boost Defense and Veterans Affairs

The administration is proposing funding increases for a number of agencies, including: NASA (12%), the Veterans Affairs Department (13%), the National Nuclear Security Administration (19%) and the Homeland Security Department (3%), according to the *Journal*.

But the White House plan would cut funding for foreign aid by 21%, the Environmental Protection Agency by 26%, Housing and Urban Development by 15%, the Commerce Department by 37% (attributed to the census' completion) and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention by 9%, although it would preserve \$4.3 billion to fight infectious diseases as the coronavirus raises fears of a global pandemic, the *Journal* reported.

The White House is expected to send its budget request to Congress on Monday afternoon.

*Source: Government Executive 2-8-2020*

## White House Memo Could End Unionization at the Pentagon

In a January memo, President Trump authorized Defense Secretary Mark Esper to exempt the Defense Department from the law governing collective bargaining in the federal government.

President Trump signed a memo last month that could pave the way for his administration to outlaw collective bargaining by the Defense Department's 750,000-person civilian workforce.

According to a January 29 memo obtained by *Government Executive* entitled "Delegation of Certain Authority under the Federal Service Labor-Management Relations Statute," Trump gave Defense Secretary Mark Esper the authority to exclude Pentagon "agencies or subdivisions thereof" from the law guaranteeing federal workers the right to unionize, citing the need for "flexibility."

In a statement, AFGE National Secretary-Treasurer Everett Kelley called the memo disgraceful.

"Denying nearly half a million Defense Department workers the collective bargaining rights guaranteed to them by law since 1962 would be a travesty—and doing it under the guise of 'national security' would be a disgrace to the sacred oath and obligation that all federal workers make to their country," Kelley said. "This administration will not stop until it takes away all workers' rights to form and join a union, and we will not stop doing everything we can to prevent that from happening."

*Source: Government Executive 2-8-2020*



## CHAPTER BYLAWS

The chapter bylaws were approved at our November meeting. No word has been received from NARFE HQ on its current status but then it has only been a little over two months since it was submitted.



## FREE NARFE WEBINARS

NARFE Webinars cover topics of interest specifically for the federal community. Members have access to wealth knowledge and expertise to help them make the best decisions about their benefits, finances, and careers before, during and after retirement. Webinars, on a wide variety of topics, going to 2015 are available. Click on the link titled "NARFE FEDERAL BENEFITS INSTITUTE". It's just above the blue banner titled "STRATEGIC PLANNING"

Register for the live webinar at [narfe.org/institute](http://narfe.org/institute) at least one day before the scheduled date:  
February 13 @ 11 AM (PT) – Understanding the FERS Basic Benefit

February 27 @ 11AM (PT) – Your Ticket to a Secure Future.

March 12 @ 11AM (PT) – Set Your Retirement Goals and Plan the Process

April 16 @ 11AM (PT) – It's Never too Early to Start Planning: What New and Mid-Career Feds Need to Know

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## CHAPTER MEETINGS

Our chapter meetings are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month: February 20<sup>th</sup>, March 19<sup>th</sup>, April 16<sup>th</sup>, May 21<sup>st</sup>, June 18<sup>th</sup>. Meetings start at 1:30PM with 30 minutes for our chapter meeting and then the speaker has the floor for 60 minutes or so.

Our holiday party will be on December 4, 2020, the First Friday in December.

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## CHAPTER BOARD MEETING

*Contributed by Carol Amano, Outgoing Secretary*

Our board meeting was held on Wednesday February 5<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon. This a new time (at the request of the Senior Center). Future board meetings are the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month at noon at the Oceanside Senior Center, 455 Country Club Lane: March 4<sup>th</sup>, April 1<sup>st</sup>, May 6<sup>th</sup> and June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Attendees: Tom Buggie President; Sara Baldwin V.P; Gloria Cortez 2<sup>nd</sup> V.P; Joe Beyer Treasurer; Carol Amano Outgoing Secretary; Marcy Rose Membership and Service; Duane Hill Ways and Means

1. Duane Hill is our new Ways and Means chairman and will also do Alzheimers.
  2. There was a discussion from Tom as to reducing membership dues as NARFE will be attempting to raise the National dues by \$8.00. That will be decided nationally by the NARFE referendum (August?).
  3. Tom also asked if we will keep matching the \$15.00 Federation on dues withholding. No vote yet.
  4. Joe requested sending the newsletter to Postmasters with extra copies.
  5. Tom, Joe will be going to the Calif Federation seminar in San Diego 17-19 Mar 2020 at the Hilton in Mission Valley, CA.
  6. Tom and Sandy will go to the FEDCon/20 in Scottsdale, AZ. They need to register by 31 Mar 2020.
  7. Discussion about having our own Health Fair. Nothing was decided yet. More info needed.
  8. Training sessions for using the chapter reports system will start, Wednesday 19 Feb 2020.
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## MEETING MINUTES for January 16, 2020

*Contributed by Marcy Rose, Acting Secretary*

Call to Order – Tom Buggie called the meeting to order. There were 11 members and 5 guests.

Opening - Ann Bernal gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Treasure Report – Joe Beyer gave the status and balance of the money in the treasury. This report is also in the monthly newsletter.

Secretary Report – Marcy Rose stated the minutes of the meetings are in the monthly newsletter. Carol Amano was not here to give the Alzheimer's report.

Membership – The membership numbers are in the monthly newsletter. Tom and Joe talked about the need for new members. Our numbers have fallen dramatically

Service – Marcy Rose is available to give service to members who request help with their annuities and benefits.

National Legislation Report – Tom Buggie gave the report which is also in the newsletter.

Guest Speaker – Our guest speaker was Dale Huffman, a Certified Public Accountant, from Carlsbad. He talked to us about changes in Tax law. No big surprises. He is one of our favorite speakers.

The meeting was adjourned. Refreshments were available. Joe Beyer won the drawing again.

Report prepared by Marcy Rose, Service Officer, Chapter 706

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## MEMBERSHIP



## NARFE is YOUR Voice in Congress!

*Contributed by Carol Amano & Marcy Rose,*

### Dues Withholding Incentive

The Chapter Board discussed but did not vote yet on whether to reduce our current dues withholding incentive. We are considering reducing it to match the CSFC bonus of \$15. **If you have sent the Dues Withholding form to NARFE but it has not yet gone into effect, let us know as that will protect the bonuses (\$45) promised.** Over 50% of our chapter members are on D/W. 37 of our chapter members pay their dues annually. That's the most expensive route to take.

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### Half-Price First-Year Membership Drive Continues

The Half Price First Year Membership Drive will be for the first year. The application must be sent directly to Chapter 706 for processing and the individual must be a NEW NARFE member living in California.

This offer is ONLY available for NEW members (that includes postal workers) that join our chapter and live in our geographical area of service. Current and former members of NARFE are not eligible because the cost of the membership is being partially offset by rebates from NARFE Headquarters and the NARFE California Federation of Chapters (CSFC). Without the assistance of NARFE and the CSFC we would not be able to do this.

**ONLY THE SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP FORM CAN BE USED FOR THIS OFFER. PLEASE APPROACH FORMER CO-WORKERS AND YOUR POSTAL CARRIER THIS MONTH AND TALK UP THE BENEFITS OF A NARFE MEMBERSHIP!**

Our special membership form is also on our chapter website at [www.narfechapter706.org](http://www.narfechapter706.org).



### RECYCLE FOR CASH

If you have "CA CRV" aluminum cans, bottles, and plastics, please bring them to our meetings and we will consolidate them and turn them into cash for the chapter. "CA CRV" does not usually include milk and juice bottles, plastic containers, or food cans but does include water, soda, and other beverage bottles. Please check closely for "CA CRV" – those are the only items we want.

*Recycling for January, 2020, was \$50.20. Thanks Bob Mifflin and Duane Hill for their recycling efforts.*

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### DUES WITHHOLDING = LOWEST COST MEMBERSHIP

Those switching to Dues Withholding will save \$6 annually plus receive a \$15 check from the CSFC and a **\$30 check** from our chapter. Two members switched to D/W in December and have received their bonus checks.

**NEW MEMBERS** (M112 - Not available)  
(The last membership report (M112) received was March, 2019.  
Currently we are piecing information together using the daily Chapter  
Member List (CML))

CHARLES R. AIKINS	(trans in)	OCEANSIDE
MARIA T. PETTIS	(trans in)	OCEANSIDE
OLIVIA QUINN	(New Member)	OCEANSIDE

**IN MEMORIAM** (M112 - Not available)  
No deaths were found during January.

Note: additional information is available on the Obits page  
on our website ([www.narfechapter706.org](http://www.narfechapter706.org))

The Honorable Diane Feinstein  
880 Front Street Suite 4236  
San Diego CA 92101

Dear Senator Feinstein,

Thank you for your past support on National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) issues.

I write to ask for your support again by introducing a bill that would modify the formula used in the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). HR 4540, Public Servants Protection and Fairness Act, was introduced by Congressman Richard E. Neal, Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee. While HR 4540 does not repeal WEP, it would reduce the penalty public service retirees suffer. There appears to be increasing bipartisan support in the House to modify the WEP formula.

Please introduce a bill, based upon HR 4540, that will modify the WEP formula and increase Social Security benefits for WEP impacted retirees.

Thank you for your consideration of my views. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Kamala D. Harris  
600 B Street, Suite 2240  
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Senator Harris,

I write to ask for support by introducing a bill that would modify the formula used in the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). HR 4540, Public Servants Protection and Fairness Act, was introduced by Congressman Richard E. Neal, Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee. While HR 4540 does not repeal WEP, it would reduce the penalty public service retirees suffer. There appears to be increasing bipartisan support in the House to modify the WEP formula.

Please introduce a bill, based upon HR 4540, that will modify the WEP formula and increase our Social Security benefits for WEP impacted retirees.

Thank you for your consideration of my views. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,





# Active and Retired Federal Employees ... Join NARFE Today!

The only organization dedicated solely to protecting and preserving the benefits of all federal workers and retirees, NARFE informs you of any developments and proposals that affect your compensation, retirement and health benefits, AND provides clear answers to your questions.

## Who Should Join the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association?

If your future security is tied to federal retirement benefits – federal retirees, current employees, spouses and individual survivors – you should join NARFE.

### NARFE MEMBER BENEFITS

- Get monthly issues of *narfe* magazine with news and insights for the federal community.
- Access the NARFE Federal Benefits Institute for powerful resources to help you fully understand and manage your benefits.
- Visit the Legislative Action Center to contact your representatives about bills affecting federal benefits.
- Visit the Member Perks page for a full listing of the many time-, money- and hassle-saving benefits available only to NARFE members.
- The opportunity to get involved at the local level by joining a chapter in your area.

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## NARFE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

**YES. I want to join NARFE for the low annual dues of \$40.**

Mr.  Mrs.  Miss  Ms.

Full Name

Street Address

Apt./Unit

City State ZIP

Phone

Email

### I am a (check all that apply)

- Active Federal Employee    Active Federal Employee Spouse  
 Annuitant    Annuitant Spouse    Survivor Annuitant

**Please enroll my spouse**

Spouse's Full Name

Spouse's Email

### First year NARFE membership @ half price

1. Print this form and fill in the left column (name, address, etc.)
2. Write a check for \$20 payable to NARFE
3. Mail the check and the application form to:  
**C. Amano**  
**4517 Big Sur St**  
**Oceanside CA 92057-4217**

### PAYMENT OPTIONS

- Check, Money Order or Bill Pay (Payable to NARFE)  
 Bill me (NARFE membership will start when payment is received.)  
 Charge my:  
 MasterCard    VISA    Discover    AMEX

Card No.

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_  
mm      yyyy

Name on Card

Signature

Date

### TOTAL DUES

\$40 Annual Dues X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
Per Person                      # Enrolling                      Total Dues

*Dues payments are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes.*

Looking to meet others in the federal community and participate in NARFE at a local level? Call **800-627-3394** to learn about a NARFE chapter in your area.

Or, if known, add Chapter # to join now 0706

**MAY WE THANK SOMEONE?** If applicable, please provide the name, membership and chapter number of the member who introduced you to NARFE:

C. Amano  
 Recruiter's Name  
 10850166  
 Recruiter's Membership ID  
 0706  
 Recruiter's Chapter Number

NARFE respects the privacy of our members. Personal information is used to provide content and relevant communications to our members, and will not be sold or rented to third parties without your express permission.

(0817)