



# NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES WEST SHORE CHAPTER 1465

PRESIDENT	WILLIAM G. HENNE	737-1486
1 <sup>ST</sup> VICE PRESIDENT	ROBERT B. MILLER	737-7617
2 <sup>ND</sup> VICE PRESIDENT	PHILIP R. GOLDSTEIN	763-0353
TREASURER	JAMES A. BROOKES	737-9850
SECRETARY	MARGARET BRUBECK	957-3251
SERVICE OFFICER	MAX R. CHABANIK	774-3350
SUNSHINE COMMITTEE	MARIE BROOKES	737-9850
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	BESSIE JOHNSON	766-6705

Senator Robert Casey, 717-231-7540	Rep. Todd Platts, 717-600-1919
Senator Patrick Toomey, 717-782-3951	Rep. Tim Holden, 717-234-5546

NEWSLETTER: SEPTEMBER 2011

[www.narfe1465.org](http://www.narfe1465.org)

NEXT MEETING: September 14, 2011, the second Wednesday of the month, at the VFW Post 6704, 4907 Carlisle Pike, Mechanicsburg. Post is located between "Midas Auto Service" and the "Community Aid" building. Executive Board will meet at 10:30am. Lunch (\$7.00) is at 11:30am. Meeting will start at 12:30pm.

Program: Raymond Marsico, from Neil Funeral Home.

Program: For October we will have Malcolm Cohen, License Clinical Social Worker. Subject: Getting Older

**President's Message: William G. Henne**

At our September meeting we will have Raymond Marsico from Neil Funeral Home who will speak to us about what is involved in pre-arranging funeral arrangements and Veteran benefits. This is a subject most of us don't want to think about, but Ray will provide us with information that we and our next of kin should know about.

I hope some of you contacted your Congressman last month as Phil Goldstein, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, ask us to do. To not cut our retirement and health benefits. NARFE members made 25,000 phone calls and 215,000 e-mail messages to our legislators.

Keep in mind if you sign up for dues withholding for NARFE membership, you get a \$10.00 incentive.

## Dues Withholding Application for Retirees

*Be sure to fill out both sides of this form and mail to: Attn: Member Records, NARFE,  
606 North Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314*

(Please Print)

-   -

Social Security Number  
(9-digit number)

(Mr., Mrs., Miss, Ms.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Last, First, Middle Initial

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

NARFE Membership Number \_\_\_\_\_

NARFE Chapter Number: \_\_\_\_\_

-    -

C S  
Civil Service Annuity Number  
(Include prefix, CSA or CSF)

(Include any applicable suffix)

**Membership: Robert Miller**

SAVE MONEY

Every retired member or retired new member is eligible to join dues withholding.

Everyone can earn \$10 by joining dues withholding now. The program will run for a 6 month trial period and if it is successful, it can be extended by the PA Federation Executive Board. The dues withholding will become effective in the current expiration month/year.

Dues withholding is the best deal for your money. It costs \$34, per year plus chapter dues or \$3.42 per month out of your annuity. Because it is an important tool for membership, the PA Federation Executive Board has voted to give a \$10 incentive to any member, new member or reinstated member who joins dues withholding within the next six months.

The application must be sent through the PA Federation Coordinator for the applicant to be eligible for the \$10. Once the Federation Coordinator receives the application, the check for \$10 will be mailed to the member.

If the application goes to National without going through the Federation Coordinator, the incentive will not be paid. This process is necessary to assure the accurate accounting of the funds and to ensure the member receives the reward in a timely manner.

WIN MONEY

Also, remember the PA Federation Recruiting and Retention Contest which will continue until February 2012. Winners will be selected at the 2012 PA Federation Convention.

There will be two \$100 prizes for members who join dues withholding. So, those taking advantage of the \$10 incentive will also be eligible for a cash award in the R&R contest at the Federation Convention.

I have included the application in this newsletter. **Please send your completed application to me** to ensure proper processing: Robert B. Miller, 815 Pennsylvania Avenue, Lemoyne, PA 17043-1531.

**Legislation: Philip Goldstein**

**MEETING WITH SENATOR TOOMEY:** On July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011 my wife and I along with representatives from other Pennsylvania NARFE chapters met with Mr. Robert J. DeSousa, the State Director for Senator Toomey to discuss issues of interest to active and retired federal employees. The delegation was headed by Mr. Ted Mason, our Federation V.P. (Legislative).

Mr. Mason started the meeting telling his personal story surrounding his first coming to work for the Federal Government. This followed a suggestion from National Headquarters that personal stories make the strongest impression. The most significant point of his talk was that he actually earned less than he had in private industry doing the same kind of work. Many of us made the point that government employees earn 22% to 24% less than their private industry counterparts. The Cato Institute study was mentioned by a representative. This study reported that government workers earned 3 to 4

**AUTHORIZATION (Withholding will begin in 60-90 days). No payment should be forwarded with application.**

I authorize the United States Office of Personnel Management to make appropriate deductions from my annuity payments, not to exceed the amount certified by the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association as the amount of dues for which I am annually obligated, in accordance with elections I make below and to pay the deducted sum to the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE). This authorization shall also apply to any and all dues changes certified by NARFE membership in accordance with elections I make below: *Please allow 60-90 days for processing.*

**Do You Authorize Your Spouse's Dues to Be Withheld from Your Annuity?**  Yes  No

If YES, enter your spouse's name and membership number below.

You authorize:

**Annual NARFE dues of \$34.00 plus Chapter dues of record to be withheld annually.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Number

I understand that this authorization shall be valid until NARFE receives and processes my written notice of cancellation in accordance with its agreement with the Office of Personnel Management and that any disputes regarding this authorization shall be a matter between NARFE and myself. I hold the Office of Personnel Management harmless for any erroneous allotment deduction made pursuant to this authorization.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Annuitant or Survivor-Annuitant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

DW-2 (10/10)

Dues payments and gifts or contributions to NARFE are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes.

times as much as private industry. Upon review, it turned out that the Cato study compared the direct wages of private industry to the complete package (wages plus all other benefits) of public workers. When the same criteria were compared, public workers were behind as noted above.

Other topics mentioned were the number of extra uncompensated hours public workers contributed, the excessive cost of contracting out (I called it the worst rape of the taxpayers several times), COLA's, the fact that public workers feel the pain first and sharing the pain means letting others catch up, and the pending legislation singling out government workers, who are delinquent in their taxes for special punishment.

On the last point, I sent Mr. DeSousa an email with the specific bills and asked for Sen. Toomey's position on the issue. I received a response which addressed the current economic conditions and the need to rein in Federal expenses. He did not answer the question. I will write again.

Mr. DeSousa closed the meeting by giving a short talk on Sen. Toomey in general. He believes in the sanctity of contracts and therefore the benefits of current retirees and those nearing retirement will not be affected. However, he did not say much about those coming behind us other than implying they will not receive the same level of benefits current retirees receive. He has taken a 10% cut in office expenses which he will return to the treasury. Sen. Toomey is in favor of cut, cap, and balance. This is cut spending, cap it at the reduced level, and pass a Constitutional Amendment requiring a balanced budget.

#### **FROM NATIONAL:**

**Debt Deal Spares Fed Pay, Benefits – for Now:** Thanks in part to the efforts of NARFE members, the debt limit compromise (Public Law 112-25) passed by Congress and signed into law by the President does not make any reductions in the retirement, pay or health benefits of federal employees and annuitants. Spending caps in the law, however, could affect active federal employee job security because agency budgets may be impacted. But the overall threat has NOT disappeared: Federal civilian retirement and health benefits continue to be vulnerable because the new law creates a bipartisan "Super Committee" of Congress with a mandate to cut spending by an additional \$1.5 trillion before the end of this year.

The thousands of you who wrote letters, made calls, contacted your local papers, donated and showed up at events as part of our Protect America's Heartbeat campaign made the difference. **Together, we:**

- **Engaged thousands of NARFE members**, generating more than 25,000 phone calls and more than 215,000 e-mail messages to legislators, collecting more than 500 personal stories of federal service and delivering more than 5,000 handwritten letters to members of Congress.
- **Changed the narrative in the media**, placing nearly 100 articles resulting in more than 120 million media impressions, rapidly responding to fresh attacks on federal workers, pushing a pro-federal worker message and generating local press in key states.
- **Activated 10 states across the country**, arranging more than 50 direct contacts with lawmakers and their staffs, collecting thousands of letters and prompting more than a dozen "letters to the editor" from NARFE members.
- **Conducted a strategic advertising campaign**, including online and radio ads, to reach crucial legislators in their backyards, decision makers in Washington, DC, and expanding our campaign to even more federal workers.

This powerful work was the key to our victory, and you made it possible. I want to take a moment to thank all of you for your efforts. **But I also want you to know that the threat has not disappeared.**

Spending caps in the new deficit reduction law could affect federal employees in the months to come. The new bipartisan "Super Committee," created by the law, will no doubt target retired and active federal workers as they aim to cut spending by an additional \$1.5 trillion this year.

I may be reached at: NARFE1465PhilG@COMCAST.NET

**LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE:** There is a hot line with a weekly message. It is available to telephone callers at (703) 838-7780 and toll free at 1-877-217-8234). It is posted on NARFE's Internet site, [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org)

#### **Treasurer: James A. Brookes**

Checkbook Beginning Balance 6/30/11	\$2,551.54
July Receipts	305.89
July Disbursements	\$105.69
Future Year Dues in Escrow\$	\$253.00
Checkbook Ending Balance 7/31/11	\$3,004.74
Shares/Money Market Balance	\$5,912.39
Total Balance 7/31/11	\$8,917.13

#### **Sunshine: Marie Brookes**

Condolence card sent to Paul Auman on death of his mother, Edith P. Auman

Condolence card sent to Jil M. Dershem on death of her mother, Dorothy E. Dershem

## TRAVEL SCHEDULE

CHAIR: MARIE BROOKES, 5380 Joshua Road, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050  
TEL: 737-9850  
CO-CHAIR: TERREE GOLDSTEIN, 137 Resser Road, Camp Hill, PA 17011  
TEL: 763-0353

See travel on [www.narfe1465.org](http://www.narfe1465.org)  
Email us at [narfe.1465.travel@gmail.com](mailto:narfe.1465.travel@gmail.com).  
Make checks payable to: NARFE 1465

ERHARDT'S FALL FOLIAGE TRAIN RIDE (Thurs, September 22) - Upon arrival at the train station in Honesdale you will be greeted with coffee and apple streusel cake. After a 45 minute train ride along the Lackawaxen River you will be taken by bus to Erhardt's for a family style meal and the comedy, singing, and impressions of "The Joey Vincent Show," and a snack before departure. Erhardt's says station platform at train level. Depart K-Mart lot on Carlisle Pike (subject to change) at 7:30 AM and return approx 7:30 PM. Contact Terree for reservations at \$85 pp.

### HUNTERDON HILLS "A PLAYHOUSE CHRISTMAS 2011" (Tues, November 8)

An ensemble cast of multi-talented performers celebrate Christmas in an original holiday song and dance fest with traditional carols, classic and contemporary Yuletide compositions, humorous skits, and spectacular dance numbers, all backed by a live onstage orchestra. Price includes full course meal, their fabulous dessert bar and show. Depart K-Mart parking lot on Carlisle Pike (subject to change) at 8:30 AM and return approx 5 PM. Call Marie for reservations at \$94 pp.