

NARFE LEGISLATIVE PRESENTATION

Presented by:

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NM Federation Vice President

NM Federation National Legislative Chair

September 25, 2015

NARFE'S Mission Statement

- To support legislation beneficial to current and potential federal annuitants and to oppose legislation contrary to their interests.
- To promote the general welfare of current and potential federal annuitants by advising them with respect to their rights under retirement laws and regulations.
- To operate with other organizations and associations in furtherance of these general objectives.

Subjects to Cover

- Advocacy
- 113th Congress Recap
- Looking Ahead 114th Congress
- Top Three Threats
- Current Legislation
- What You Can Do

Advocacy

- Field Plans
 - Establishment of Senatorial Legislative Liaisons (SLL)-
Experimental
 - Establishment of Congressional District Liaisons (CDL)-
Experimental
- Future of SLLs and CDLs

Field Plans

- Senatorial Legislative Liaison and Congressional District Liaison Field Plan for Experimental Term of April 2015-April 2015
 - Prepared by NM Federation Legislative Chair 18-22 April 2015
 - Approved by the NM Federation Executive Board on 24 April 2015
- Senatorial Legislative Liaison and Congressional District Liaison Field Plan for 1 June – 30 September 2015
 - Prepared by the NM Federation Legislative Chair 29-31 May 2015
 - Approved by the NM Federation President 31 May 2015

Senatorial Legislative Liaisons (SLL)

- Qualifications
 - Be a registered voter in New Mexico.
 - Represent NARFE in a professional manner; dress should be casual business attire.
 - Be familiar with current legislative issues.
 - Have access to email and the internet and be familiar with the NARFE website, Legislative Action Center, Protect America's Heartbeat, and other advocacy programs that may be established by NARFE Headquarters

Senatorial Legislative Liaisons (SLL)

Duties

- Work under the general direction of the NM Federation Legislative Chair
- Become known by your assigned Senator and/or staff
- Schedule one or more annual meeting
- Advocate for sponsorship of legislation NARFE supports
- Participate in the monthly Legislative Webinar
- Participate in the monthly PAH conference call
- Keep abreast and advise members of Senators functions
- Wear NARFE badge or apparel at all events
- Provide feedback and report
- Attend, when possible, the biennial Legislative Conference
- Request mileage reimbursement
- Coordinate with Chapter Legislative Chairs

SLL Appointments

- SLL for Senator Tom Udall
 - Mary Ellen McKay, Las Cruces Chapter 182
1380 Via Norte, Las Cruces, NM 88007-4943
575-527-4750
memckay1@comccast.net
- SLL for Senator Martin Heinrich:
 - Billie Jean Zinter, Albuquerque Chapter 80
2222 Uptown Loop NE Apt. 2301, Albuquerque, NM 87110
505-554-4345
BJZinter@Hotmail.com

Congressional District Liaisons (CDL)

- Qualifications
 - Be a registered voter in New Mexico.
 - Represent NARFE in a professional manner; dress should be casual business attire.
 - Be familiar with current legislative issues.
 - Have access to email and the internet and be familiar with the NARFE website, Legislative Action Center, Protect America's Heartbeat, and other advocacy programs that may be established by NARFE Headquarters

Congressional District Liaisons (CDL)

Duties

- Work under the general direction of the NM Federation Legislative Chair
- Become known by your assigned Congressional and/or staff
- Schedule one or more annual meeting
- Advocate for sponsorship of legislation NARFE supports
- Participate in the monthly Legislative Webinar
- Participate in the monthly PAH conference call
- Keep abreast and advise members of Senators functions
- Wear NARFE badge or apparel at all events
- Provide feedback and report
- Attend, when possible, the biennial Legislative Conference
- Request mileage reimbursement
- Coordinate with Chapter Legislative Chairs

CDL Appointments

- CDL for Representative Michelle Lujan Grisham, CD #1
 - Marlene Seaton, Rio Rancho Chapter 1381
3939 Oxbow Village Lane NW, Albuquerque, NM 87120-1179
505-831-3335
bugskie@aol.com
- CDL for Representative Steve Pearce, CD #2
 - Elizabeth (Betty) Hicks, Roswell Chapter 731
6 Forest Drive, Roswell, NM 88203-2606
575-622-5558
skeethicks@aol.com

CDL Appointments (Cont'd)

- CDL for Representative Ben Ray Lujan, CD#3
 - William (Bill) Britton, Santa Fe Chapter 186
P. O. Box 807, Pecos, NM 87552
505-757-6527
webritton@Hotmail.com

Future of SLLs and CDLs

- A resolution will be presented at the 2016 NM Federation Convention
- Upon Approval a Field Plan will be prepared for approval by the Federation Executive Board
- Request for candidates of each position
- Appointments will be made for a 2 year term

Questions Regarding SLLs and CDLs

113th Congress (2013-2014) Recap

 Fed-Check	
SERIAL	CHECK NUMBER
GUESTS 4.6 million feds & retirees	
2011 + 2012 + 2013 federal pay freeze	\$98 billion
Increased retirement contributions for federal employees hired in 2013	\$15 billion
Lost wages due to sequestration-related furloughs	\$1 billion
Increased retirement contributions for federal employees hired in 2014 and beyond	\$6 billion
<i>Thank You</i>	TOTAL \$120 billion
BT-6000	

- Contributions from the federal community to date.
- \$120 Billion!

Looking Ahead – 114th Congress

- Environment on Capitol Hill
- 7 years of sequestration remaining
- Budget fights loom for FY16 and beyond

What does the budget fight mean for Federal employees?

Looking Ahead – 114th Congress

- Increased retirement contributions for current feds
- Pay freezes
- Elimination of FERS annuity supplement
- High-3 to High-5
- Changing retirement multiplier
- Changes to FEHBP
- Chained CPI
- Arbitrary workforce reductions

Top Three Threats

- Decreasing the rate of return on the Thrift Savings Plan G Fund
- Decreasing federal employee pay by 6 percent through increased payroll deductions toward retirement
- Reduced federal pay raise or reinstitute pay freeze

Decreasing the rate of return on the Thrift Savings Plan G Fund

- This proposal would reduce the annual return on the G Fund from about 2.25 percent to about 0.02 percent, making it a worthless investment. Currently, money invested in the G Fund, which consists of special-issue U.S. Treasury securities, receives the same rate of return as the Social Security Trust Fund and the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund. This proposal has made the Senate Majority Leader's short-list of pay-fors for a surface transportation funding bill.

Decreasing federal employee pay by 6 percent through increased payroll deductions toward retirement

- All current federal employees – both CSRS and FERS – would receive no additional retirement benefits but would be forced to contribute another 6 percent of their pay toward their retirement. This is nothing more than a poorly disguised pay cut for federal employees.

Reduced federal pay raise or reinstitute pay freeze

- Federal employees had their pay frozen from 2010 to 2013, resulting in \$98 billion in deficit reduction. They received only a 1 percent pay raise in 2014 and 2015. Meanwhile, private-sector wages have risen 8.3 percent in the past five years, and the cost of living increased 11 percent.

Current Legislation

- S. 164 and H.R. 304 The Federal Adjustment of Income Rates (FAIR Act)
- H.R. 485 Wage Grade Employee Parity Act
- H.R. 785 The Federal Employee Pension Fairness Act
- S. 1576, Representative Payee Fraud Prevention Act
- S. 1746 and H.R. 3029 Recover Act
- H.R. 2175 FEHBP Prescription Drug Oversight and Cost Savings Act
- H.R. 2827 Competitive Service Act

S. 164 and H.R. 304 The Federal Adjustment of Income Rates (FAIR Act)

- Provides for a 3.8 percent pay raise for federal employees
- Referred to the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs
- Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

H.R. 485 Wage Grade Employee Parity Act

- The president has the ability to provide a pay raise for federal employees on the General Schedule. He does not have this authority for Wage Grade employees. This would give the president this authority.
- Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

H.R. 785 The Federal Employee Pension Fairness Act

- Repeals laws passed in 2011 and 2013 that increased the Federal Employee Retirement System contributions for newly hired federal employees.
- Referred to three House Committees

S. 1576, Representative Payee Fraud Prevention Act

- Would make it illegal for a representative payee to mishandle federal retirement funds.
- Would grant authority to U.S. attorneys to prosecute financial representatives who misuse funds from the Federal Retirees System and the CSRS.
- Embezzlement of the funds would be a felony, providing federal annuitants the same protections accorded recipients of Social Security and veterans benefits.

S. 1746 and H.R. 3029 Recover Act

- Expands lifetime coverage of credit monitoring and identity theft protection of no less than \$5 million to all individuals affected by the security breaches at OPM.
- Referred to the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs.
- Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

H.R. 2175 FEHBP Prescription Drug Oversight and Cost Savings Act

- Provides OPM greater oversight authority over the prescription drug contracting and pricing methods of FEHBP
- Currently in the Oversight and Government Reform Committee

H.R. 2827 Competitive Service Act

- Allows Federal agencies to review and select job candidates from other federal agencies “best qualified lists” of applicants
- Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
- S. 1580 was passed Sep 17th

Cyber Security

- 1st Breach 4.2 M federal workers
- 2nd Breach 21.5 M federal workers, contractors and job applicants
 - This includes 19.7 million individuals that applied for a background investigation, and 1.8 million non-applicants, primarily spouses or co-habitants of applicants. Some records also include findings from interviews conducted by background investigators and approximately 1.1 million include fingerprints. Usernames and passwords that background investigation applicants used to fill out their background investigation forms were also stolen. **Notifications for this incident have not yet begun.**
 - Sept 1 award of a \$133,263,550 contract to Identity Theft Guard Solutions LLC, doing business as ID Experts, for identity theft protection services
- More concern over altered/destroyed data vs stolen data
- 2 Websites: www.opm.gov/cybersecurity and www.NARFE.org

What You Can Do

- Build a personal relationships with your members of Congress is key
- Call your Member of Congress
- Attend Congressional Town Hall Events
- Attend Community Events/Fairs/Parades
- Send letters to your Member of Congress

Conclusion

- Budget fights ahead
 - Any solution requires spending off-set
 - Short term CRA until Nov/Dec
 - Threats loom in larger budget deals
- Federal employees are at high risk for losing earned benefits
- Be vigilant
- Let your legislators know how bills affect you and your family
- Promote grassroots advocacy by getting involved

Good News

- Retiree pay not affected if government shutdown
- Per Diem rates going up
 - Lodging averaging \$6 per night
 - Food ranging from \$54 - \$74 per day

QUESTIONS

Back Up Info

S. 1651 and H.R. 973 Social Security Fairness Act

- Both repeals the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP)

H.R. 3351 CPI-E Act of 2015

- Requires Social Security and many federal retirement programs to use Consumer Price Index for the Elderly (CPI-E) to calculate cost-of-living adjustments in retirement benefits
- Referred to the House Committees on Ways and Means, Veterans' Affairs, Oversight and Government Reform, and Armed Services.
- Refer to NARFE Magazine, Oct '15, page 8 article