



## **Welcome to the First Edition of the New Missouri NARFE Newsletter!**

We're thrilled to connect with you through this new communication platform! Following the closure of our state newspaper, the Missouri Federation Board has been hard at work creating an alternative way to keep you informed and engaged. This inaugural edition marks the beginning of our enhanced outreach efforts. If you have an email address registered with NARFE, you're receiving this newsletter via a convenient FEDHub email link. For members without an email on file, this newsletter has been mailed to your postal address because it's important to reach all of our members despite the mailing costs.

To help us save resources and communicate more efficiently, we kindly encourage you to share your email address with NARFE, if possible. By doing so, you'll receive updates faster, and your support will make a meaningful difference. Thank you for being a valued member of the Missouri NARFE community. We're excited to embark on this journey together!

### **Update Your Member Information**

Contact Membership Services by phone at (800) 456-8410 Option 1 or use the contact form at [www.narfe.org/contact-us/](http://www.narfe.org/contact-us/). Help is available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Eastern Time. A Chapter Membership Chair can also assist you with updating your information.

**— Missouri Federation Board**

### **MONARFE Prepares for New Challenges**

We face new challenges ahead. The incoming administration is considering cuts to federal health benefit contributions, which would directly impact our wallets. As the only organization dedicated to both active and retired federal employees, we must remain vigilant.

Please consider joining the Federation Executive Board as the Missouri Political Action Committee Coordinator. The PAC Coordinator works closely with members and National to advise on funding Congress members who support NARFE legislative goals and issues.

Congressional District Leaders are needed for districts 3 (Rep Onder), 6 (Rep Graves) and 8 (Jason Smith). Please consider joining the FEB to act as the point of contact for MONARFE.

You are invited to join the hybrid federation annual meeting on April 24, 2025 in Springfield at the Oasis Hotel either in person or virtually. Cindy Renee' Blythe, National Secretary/Treasurer, and John Hatton, Staff Vice President, Policy & Programs will be speaking. We will also hear from Linda Sawvell, our Region 5 Vice President. Visit our website ([MONARFE.org](http://MONARFE.org)) for more details.

As Missouri's federation president for the next two years, I represent our 2,399 members - including 1,055 chapter members and 1,344 national members. Please reach out to me with your thoughts, ideas, or concerns.

**— Patricia Barrett, Missouri Federation President**

## **Guidance on Implementation of Social Security Fairness Act**

The Social Security Administration is implementing the Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 82) and will share updates as soon as they are available. If you previously filed for Social Security benefits and your payments were reduced due to WEP or GPO, no immediate action is required. However, SSA advises ensuring your mailing address and direct deposit information are up to date at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount). For those who have not yet filed for benefits, you can apply online at [www.ssa.gov/apply](http://www.ssa.gov/apply) or schedule an appointment with your local Social Security office. The SSA will provide ongoing updates regarding the implementation of the Social Security Fairness Act on its website. Be sure to monitor [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov) for the latest information.

### **Watch for New Legislation Being Introduced in the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress!**

New bills affecting federal employees and retirees are being introduced and referred to key committees which NARFE monitors closely. Several new bills have been introduced that directly impact federal employees and retirees. Among these are:

- **H.R. 107 – Return to Work Act**
- **H.R. 236 – Federal Employee Return to Work Act**
- **S. 21 – Requiring Effective Management and Oversight of Teleworking Employees Act**
- **S. 26 – Federal Employee Locality Accountability in Retirement Act**
- **S. 23 – Decentralizing and Reorganizing Agency Infrastructure Nationwide to Harness Efficient Services, Workforce Administration, and Management Practices**

In addition, Representative Claudia Tenney and Senator Marsha Blackburn have introduced a series of Department of Government Efficiency Act (DOGE) bills:

- **H.R. 200 – Federal Freeze Act**
- **H.R. 202 – Commission to Relocate the Federal Bureaucracy Act**
- **H.R. 201 – Federal Employee Performance and Accountability Act**
- **H.R. 199 – Implementing DOGE Act**

The stated goals of the DOGE Act bills include eliminating telework and reducing the size of the federal workforce, raising concerns about their potential impact on federal employees' rights, efficiency, and retirement security.

### **Take Action Through NARFE Advocacy Tools**

As members of NARFE, it is essential to stay informed and engaged. You can review these and other proposed bills in the "NARFE Bill Tracker" section of the monthly NARFE Magazine. Additionally, visit the NARFE Legislative Action Center at [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org) under the Advocacy section to access resources for contacting your legislators. The Action Center provides sample letters, emails, text messages, and social media posts to help you voice your support for NARFE's positions. As bills are introduced, they may be tracked at [www.congress.gov](http://www.congress.gov) and [www.govtrack.us](http://www.govtrack.us). Your participation is crucial in advocating for fair treatment and justice for federal employees and retirees. Stay informed, stay engaged, and let's work together to protect the rights and benefits of the federal community.

**— Craig Pettibone, 1st VP - Legislation**

## Membership: Who Can Join?

Membership in NARFE, the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association, is open to civilians who are or will be eligible to receive an annuity or survivor annuity from the federal retirement programs of any agency of the United States government.

That includes:

- Current federal employees
- Retirees
- Former federal employees
- Spouses and surviving spouses of those eligible to join NARFE
- A former spouse who is entitled to a federal survivor annuity

— **William Cooper, 2nd VP - Membership**

## Free Assistance From Your Federation Service Officer

I'm here to assist you and your survivors with any questions you may have about your federal benefits. Remember, my services are entirely free of charge, ensuring that you have the support you need when it matters most. Just reach out to me at (816) 289-6485. Save my contact information where you and your family can find it when needed.

— **William Cooper, Service Officer**

## Need to Contact an Officer

**President**, Patricia Barrett, 573-280-8071, [tricia-barrett@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tricia-barrett@sbcglobal.net)

**1st VP - Legislative**, Craig Pettibone, 314-698-2890, [cpettibone@verizon.net](mailto:cpettibone@verizon.net)

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**Secretary**, Kay Crayton, 816-438-0456, [kajunkale@gmail.com](mailto:kajunkale@gmail.com)

**Treasurer**, Marcy Nelson, 816-805-6416, [marcylatenser@comcast.net](mailto:marcylatenser@comcast.net)

**Congressional District Leader 1**, Susan Erickson, 314-503-2176, [dsmte@swbell.net](mailto:dsmte@swbell.net)

**Congressional District Leader 2**, Linda Kurz, 636-629-3987, [linda\\_krz@yahoo.com](mailto:linda_krz@yahoo.com)

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**Congressional District Leader 6**,

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**Region V Regional Vice President (RVP)**, Linda Sawvell, [Lsawvell262@gmail.com](mailto:Lsawvell262@gmail.com)

## Have An Idea for a News Article?

Email your article ideas to [MONarfeNewsletter+editor@gmail.com](mailto:MONarfeNewsletter+editor@gmail.com).

## Missouri Federation Membership Stats (4-6-2025)

Chapter Members - 1061      National Only Members - 1357

Without Email - 372

Without Email - 496

Total Members - 2418

Without Email - 868