



NARFE Advocacy Update Colorado Federation Conference October 7, 2021

Presented By: Marsha Padilla-Goad
Grassroots Program Manager

Agenda

- **Legislative Priorities**
- **Executive Branch Relations**
- **Ongoing Advocacy Leader Training**
- **Recap of Grassroots Advocacy Month**
- **NARFE-PAC**
- **Q&A**

Legislative Priorities



Current Legislative Priorities

- 1. Postal Reform**
- 2. GPO and WEP repeal or reform**
- 3. More accurate COLAs**

Postal Reform

- **Postal Service Reform Act, H.R. 3076/S. 1720**
 - Could increase premiums for FEHB plans
 - Splits FEHB risk pool between federal and postal
 - Current postal retirees must enroll in Medicare or stay in FEHB
 - Leaves postal retirees without Medicare in FEHB
 - » Costliest to insure
 - » Threatens FEHB premiums
 - **Maintains choice re: Medicare enrollment for current postal retirees**
 - NARFE win



Postal Reform

- **Ask Representative and Senators to withhold support for bills until**
 - Further analysis is provided regarding effect on FEHB
 - Any changes necessary are made needed to protect FEHB
 - Introduce/support floor amendment to protect FEHB, if it gets to that stage
- **If your lawmakers are cosponsors**
 - Ask that they not push to move the bill forward until analysis is complete, necessary changes made

GPO and WEP Repeal or Reform

- **H.R. 82/S. 1302, the Social Security Fairness Act**
 - Bills would completely repeal WEP and GPO
 - Goal: 290 cosponsors in the House

- **H.R. 2337, the Public Servants Protection and Fairness Act**
 - Bill would reduce WEP penalty
 - 62 years old before 2023
 - » Provide rebate of \$150 per month
 - 62 years old in 2023 or later
 - » Subject to new formula or current whichever provides a lower penalty

More Accurate COLAs for Seniors

- **COLAs to federal annuities and Social Security based on CPI-W**
 - CPI-W inaccurately accounts for seniors' spending
 - CPI-E measures prices experienced by seniors
 - Adoption of CPI-E could increase COLAs by an average of 0.27%
- **The Fair COLA for Seniors Act, H.R. 4315, uses the CPI-E to determine COLAs**
- **H.R. 304, the Equal COLA Act, ensures FERS COLAs match the change in consumer prices (and the CSRS COLA)**

Executive Branch Relations



Biden FY22 Budget on NARFE Issues

- **Protecting earned federal benefits**
 - No proposals to reduce retirement or health benefits
 - No proposed changes to postal retiree health benefits
- **Federal Pay**
 - Proposed 2.7% increase in federal pay for 2022, in line with private-sector and military pay increase
 - » Submitted in August
 - » 2.2% across-the-board, plus 0.5% average increase in locality pay

Biden FY22 Budget on NARFE Issues

- **Social Security**
 - No mention of WEP, GPO or CPI-E
 - Disappointing, given candidate questionnaire responses
- **Civil Service**
 - Includes language focused on modernizing hiring, revitalizing the workforce
 - Proposes OPM IT Modernization Working Capital Fund



What's Next?

- **OPM reform/modernization**
 - NAPA report
 - OPM response to NAPA report
 - IT modernization?
 - Retirement processing improvements?
 - Government-wide federal human capital reform?
 - Recent call with reporters indicates all of the above are priorities for Director Ahuja
 - NARFE meeting with Ahuja indicates piecemeal approach to modernizing retirement services
- **Congressional agenda?**



Ongoing Advocacy Leader Training

Ongoing Advocacy Leader Training







Advocacy Leader Surveys

- **Federation survey** (June 2020)
 - 36 responses
- **CDL and SL survey** (March 2021)
 - 74 responses
- **Goal of surveys**
 - To understand challenges to mobilizing grassroots
 - To improve collaboration, communication, and training from headquarters
- **Survey responses were used to develop advocacy training**
- **Tailor training specific/relatable needs and concerns**



Survey Questions and Responses

- Do you have difficulty mobilizing NARFE members to participate in letter-writing and other grassroots activities? What challenges do you encounter?
- Those who answered “other,” what challenges do you encounter?

Item	Responses	
Unresponsive to email messages	39 (53%)	
Unsubscribe from newsletters, etc.	6 (8%)	
No email address	31 (42%)	
Other	39 (53%)	

Top 5 responses

- Apathy/someone else will do the work
- Reluctance to contact lawmaker
- No phone numbers and no email
- Don't see the importance in getting involved in advocacy
- No computer skills

Initial Training, Activities, and Resources

- **Addressing recruitment, skills gap, and communication concerns**
 - “Why I Became a NARFE Advocate” video [campaign](#)
 - Peer-to-peer recruitment for new CDLs, SLs, and others who can lead efforts within their federation or chapter
 - Peer-to-peer encouragement/re-energizing
 - Increase member participation in grassroots activities
 - [Social Media Quick Start Webinars](#)
 - Members learn social media basics, as an advocacy tool, and to improve member communication and engagement

Recap of Grassroots Advocacy Month

Recap of Grassroots Advocacy Month



Thank you for your support and dedication to NARFE's Grassroots Advocacy Month

Report

- **Members engaged in 43 congressional events**
 - Meetings, candidate fundraisers, town halls, picnics, etc.
- **Letter-to-the-editor (LTE) campaign on WEP and GPO repeal**
 - Total sent: 1,212
 - Total published: 18
- **Letter writing through NARFE's Legislative Action Center**
 - Total sent: 3,200

Report

- **Phone calls through NARFE's Advocacy Call Center**
 - Total: 2,300
- **2 new activities**
 - Social Media Quick Start webinars – 221 views
 - Why I Became a NARFE Advocate video campaign – 4 videos/ongoing campaign
- **Social media activities**
 - Reached and engaged over 35,000 people

NARFE-PAC

How NARFE-PAC Advances NARFE's Priorities

- **Helps elect Fed-friendly lawmakers**
- **Creates and strengthens relationships with lawmakers**
- **Opens further channels of communication**
- **Gives NARFE insight on the political landscape**
- **Keeps NARFE up-to-date on people running for Congress**

NARFE-PAC Goals for 2021-2022

**Raise \$1.85
million**

**Disburse
\$1.35 million**

**Attend 120 in-
district
fundraisers**

Colorado: Contributions to NARFE-PAC 2021-2022 Cycle

- **National only members**
 - Contributors – 179
 - Sustainers – 5
 - Total contributions – \$9,559

- **Chapter members**
 - Contributors – 173
 - Sustainers – 5
 - Total Contributions – \$9,651.00

Q&A

Thank You

Marsha Padilla-Goad
Grassroots Program Manager
advocacy@narfe.org