



CSFC-California State
Federation of Chapters

CDL News & Views



August 2019

Volume 1, Number 1

A Newsletter for CA Congressional District Leaders and the CSFC National Legislation Committee

Editor: Steve Walter
Chair - National
Legislation Committee
CDL - Chapter 0544
Redwood City

Contributors:

Dennis Niles
CDL - Chapter 2323
Dominguez Hills Carson

Ellen Culver
CDL - Chapter 1494
Tri-City Fremont

In This Issue

- Welcome to CDL News & Views
- WEP Reform Reboot – a possible step toward repeal of this law that affects CSRS retirees
- August is Grassroots Grassroots Advocacy Month-Let's get busy!
- CDL Business

National Legislation Committee

- Chair - STEVE
WALTER MENLO

Welcome to our newsletter

A belated Hello to California CDLs from your new(ish) chair. As the new CSFC Board members take their seats, I'm doing my best to get up to speed in my capacity as the chair of the National Legislation Committee. This newsletter is my attempt to try to connect us in a way that is impossible otherwise, given how we're scattered across the state. I see it as a means for sharing our experiences as CDLs, for learning from each other how to communicate with our representatives, and for simply getting to know one another better. In particular, this newsletter is intended to accomplish several things:

1. Help explain & amplify NARFE's National Legislative agenda, beyond what's presented in the monthly magazine.
2. Provide a mechanism to quickly organize our efforts when logjams in Congress suddenly break and our coordinated efforts can make a difference.
3. Help us all get up to speed on the duties & responsibilities of CDLs and how to fulfill them.
4. Get to know our California representatives, their voting records and who deserves our support in the upcoming 2020 elections
5. Provide a forum for you, as a CDL, to voice your concerns and to share your successes.

The newsletter will undoubtedly be irregular (Hey, I'm retired and have a bucket list a mile long!). I hope it will be frequent enough that you find it useful but not so frequent that you find it intrusive. I'll try to keep issues to four pages or less – probably less. Send me your suggestions, your comments, your questions and I'll try to make it an e-mail you look forward to receiving, not another piece of spam.

Cheers, Steve

WEP reform reboot

If you're like me you may have given up hope that you'll live to see any progress on the repeal of the Windfall Elimination Provision that Congress passed back in 1983. The WEP limits Social Security benefits for feds who retired under the old Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) even though they had also worked in the private sector enough to qualify for benefits.

Well, Rep. Kevin Brady (R-TX) is nothing if not tenacious and he's introduced a limited WEP reform bill that would begin the process of repealing WEP in a meaningful way that would, if passed, put \$100 in your pocket on a monthly basis. Here's a short summary taken from last week's NARFE Legislative Hotline:

PARK

- Co-Chair Vacant
- Dist II - JERRY HARDISON
LONG BEACH
- Dist V - ANASTASIOS PILIOTIS
PLEASANTON
- Dist V - PAT D'LARZELERE
East Palo Alto
- Dist VI - JEANETTE SCHMIDT
NEVADA CITY
- Dist VII - ROBERT BOUCHER
NAPA
- Dist VIII - RANDALL SCOTT
ROSAMOND

"A bipartisan group of lawmakers, led by House Committee on Ways and Means Ranking Member Kevin Brady, R-TX, introduced the **Equal Treatment of Public Servants Act of 2019, H.R. 3934**. The bill would reform the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) by changing the Social Security benefit calculation for WEP-affected beneficiaries. The WEP reduces the Social Security benefits of federal retirees who receive benefits from having worked in both the private and public sectors. The bill would provide WEP-affected individuals who are currently age 60 and older with a monthly rebate of \$100, adjusted annually by the COLA. Individuals receiving a WEP-reduced Social Security benefit based on their spouses' employment would receive a \$50 per month rebate. Moving forward, the bill would replace the WEP with a formula that equalizes benefits for certain individuals with non-covered employment. For those between age 21 and 59, the WEP penalty would be calculated using the current formula or the new one created in the bill, whichever is more beneficial. Individuals currently under age 20 would have their WEP penalty calculated with the new formula.

The longstanding Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) harms more than 1.8 million Social Security beneficiaries and spouses by reducing the Social Security benefits of local, state and federal retirees who worked in employment covered by Social Security and who also receive an annuity from their government employment. While the bill does not fully repeal the WEP, it does represent a significant improvement over CSRS retirees being unfairly penalized for their public service – for that reason, NARFE supports the bill. Contact your members of Congress today and urge them to support the **Equal Treatment of Public Servants Act of 2019.**"

National Grassroots Month

NARFE's Grassroots Advocacy Month is here! Headquarters produced a webinar to help you prepare to reach out to your representative: "[How Will You Advocate in August?](#)" Make sure you're logged in to see the links. Also, be sure to review NARFE's Grassroots Advocacy Month [webpage](#), where you can obtain information on NARFE's Big Four legislative priorities, find congressional town halls near you and access other important documents designed to help you make the most of your August advocacy activities.

CDL Dennis Niles viewed the webinar on preparing for Grassroots Advocacy Month and had this assessment:

"Found the subject webinar interesting & informative. I didn't realize that we need not cover all four of the legislative topics suggested at an August meeting with our MOC, but share those that we have a personal story to go with it. I liked meeting Marsha Padilla-Goard the new Grassroots Program Manager (virtually!), she seems to be a knowledgeable and experienced welcome addition to the team. I asked two questions via the chat box and both were answered promptly.

Best,

Dennis Niles

CA-44th Congressional District Leader"

CDL business

NARFE NEWSLINE Coming

I quoted above from last week's NARFE Legislative Hotline just as it's about to go away. In that same email is the announcement that in September, NARFE

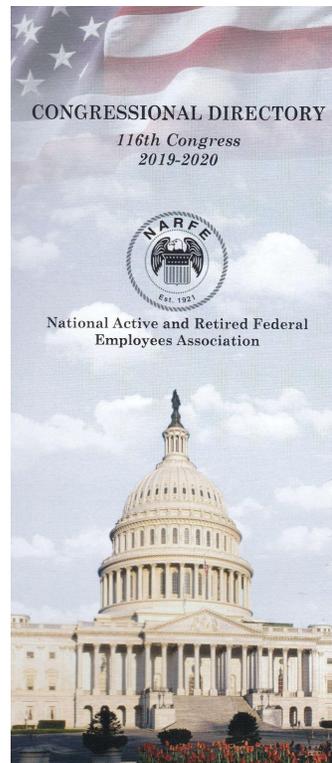
will officially phase out the Legislative Hotline and NARFE NewsWatch electronic newsletters to introduce the new NARFE NewsLine, which will feature the best of both publications in one streamlined e-newsletter. NARFE NewsLine will deliver breaking and key federal benefits news and information from NARFE and media sources around the country. The e-newsletter will also provide useful information about jobs, health care and travel topics of interest to the federal community. Compiled in a brief, easy-to-read format with important advocacy updates and Federal Benefits Institute offerings as well as carefully curated links to news and feature stories, NewsLine will be delivered to email inboxes every Tuesday via email.

Your Feedback is important . . .

Did you recently attend a congressional town hall, community event or meeting on behalf of NARFE? If so, please complete the Congressional Meeting or Event Feedback Form after any interaction with legislators or their staff. When you complete this form your interactions are recognized by the advocacy department staff and ultimately help ensure that NARFE's lobbyists echo your message on Capitol Hill.

. . . to me too.

I'd like to hear what you think of this newsletter as a method of keeping us disparate CDLs all on the same page. Is this information useful to you? What other subjects would you like to see covered? Do you have questions about what you should be doing as a CDL? How often? With whom? Send me your questions and I'll endeavor to find the answers and will include them in a future issue so we can all benefit.



Congressional Directories

Finally, if you are receiving this newsletter, you should also have received a copy of NARFE's Congressional Directory for the 116th Congress, along with a copy of the 2018 Bylaws brochure. The directory is full of useful information:

- information on your representative
- a fold-out map of Capitol Hill
- websites for both House and Senate
- websites for media that cover politics
- Cabinet Secretaries (a tad out of date, don't you know :)

And if, like Ellen Culver (CDL Chapter 1494), you're wondering when you'll get the bill for this Congressional Directory, not to worry. The CSFC Board authorized the purchase of enough copies for each CDL and each member of the National Legislation Committee to receive their own copy. Consider it a small token of their appreciation for all you do for NARFE.

