

# National Association of Retired & Veteran Railway Employees, Inc.



NARVRE National Office  
Phone Toll Free: 1-800-551-2588  
6819 Crumpler Blvd, Suite 200 • Olive Branch, MS 38654-1940  
Email: NARVRE@gmail.com • WEBSITE: [www.narvre.info](http://www.narvre.info)  
Published ten times a year  
Cost – Membership in a Unit or Membership-at-Large

NARVRE NEWSLETTER

February 2018

VOL. 32 NO. 02

## FROM THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT —

As we start into 2018 this year will be a political hailstorm. There are over thirty Republican members of Congress not seeking reelection to only seven Democrats. Many of these Republicans are committee chairs. Under GOP House rules a chairman can only serve three terms. Because of their loss of influence many choose not to run again as to just being another member. Other reasons for not running this year could be a “wave” election whereby the party in power may become the new minority. Lot of this has to do with the current Administration on many fronts and their policies on DACA, climate change, immigration, tax cuts, building a wall let alone plans for social security and Medicare. This brings us to NARVRE’s political action commit-

“...NARVEPAC is our way of supporting candidates who support working people and retirees. You can be a part of that process.”

tee NARVEPAC. NARVEPAC is our way of supporting candidates who support working people and retirees.

You can be a part of that process. All you have to do is write a check addressed to NARVEPAC and send to NST Phil Steward at the national office. Keep in mind all contributions need to be “voluntary” and not bundled in any way. No contribution can come from Unit treasury monies. Monies from NARVEPAC are used for federal candidates only and not state candidates such as governors and state legislative candidates.

You can make a voluntary contribution of any amount to NARVEPAC. Elections cost money and we are very frugal as to who we make a contribution too. If we all do our part NARVRE will be effective in the political process.

— Tom Dwyer, National President

## FROM THE NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR —

Since October 2017, Congress has been operating on fiscal year government spending levels which were passed during the Obama Administration. This is due to the practice of not doing the work of the Congress as it relates to appropriating funds needed to operate the government. We are now operating under the 3rd continuing resolution (CR) with a deadline for January 19, 2018. And time is of the essence, as the White House annual budget requests for fiscal year 2019 are normally expected in early February. Prior to dealing with the problems of the next fiscal year, the Congress has plenty of issues on the table that all demand increased funding, such as immigration, defense, military, healthcare, and, of course, the GOP obligation to Trump’s signature campaign promise to rebuild the nation’s infrastructure. That plan (or lack of) cannot get off the ground, as Trump and members of his Cabinet are at odds over funding and whether they will support this massive undertaking with or without the financial help from the private sector. As information, the cam-

paign promise of \$1 trillion dollars has been re-adjusted so that his initial promise now becomes a government investment of \$200 billion, so they need to come to an understanding of where the rest of the money will come from, and write an infrastructure bill that will pass the House & Senate. The US Dept. of Transportation has estimated that for every \$1 billion in federal investment in transportation infrastructure alone, 27,000 to 35,000 jobs will be created, so Congress needs to look at this long-term, and beyond their initial investment. Recently, at a televised meeting in the White House, the President and leaders from both parties agreed to find the resolve and pass a bipartisan bill that will stop the possible deportation of young undocumented immigrants (DACA) brought to the country as children. However, the obstacles in the way are based on the funding for the “wall” (\$18b), although the President did indicate that he is willing to compromise, and claims he will sign a compromised product...so we shall see. On top of all of these pending issues, Congress has an obligation to override the everyday politics that rule over our government and pass long-term legislation for the Children’s

continued on page 3 ➡

## From the National Vice President —

As we get closer to NARVRE's 41st Biennial Convention May 20-23, 2018 in Council Bluffs, Iowa, the executive officers continue to reiterate and encourage all our Area Directors and all officers of all NARVRE Units to set up membership drives their respective Units to renew Membership dues for 2018 and try to recruit new members and their spouses.

The only way to protect that pension we earned and enjoy, we must remain vigilant and strong as a group to promote, protect, and preserve the Railroad Retirement Pension Annuity from congressional threats to weaken our pension annuity.

**We continue the NARVRE contribution fundraising program started in 2015 and we thank all those that have contributed. Your contribution is appreciated to keep our organization strong as we ask that it will be strictly on a volunteer basis with this appeal.**

If it is in your heart to make a personal contribution, please make a check to NARVRE, and send it to our national office. Any amount you contribute is appreciated.

I would be remiss if I did not recognize two great promoters of increasing our membership; both from the NARVRE Cleburne Unit 155.

NARVRE Cleburne Unit 155 held its December meeting on December 21st and had 31 in attendance. A Christmas Raffle, snacks and punch were enjoyed by all. All members in attendance gave a lengthy standing ovation to President Mark Banton for his organizational skills and great leadership during 2017 as Unit 155 is looking forward to Mark's continued efforts in 2018.

His message was just a reminder of thanks to all the hard work of all the Units throughout the country to increase our membership. George Appleby is one of the many BNSF traveling railroad officers who continues to promote the protection of our Railroad Retirement Pension Annuity.

— **Anthony (Tony) Padilla**  
**NARVRE National Vice President**



Unit 41 swearing-in of 2018 elected officers. Pictured from left to right: Walt Rutledge, past President (6 years) giving the oath to Don Stier, President; Linda Wilson, Secretary; Dick Brown, Treasurer; and James Sims, Vice President. (Not present were two other elected officers, Herb Sibert, Director of Personnel and Donna Richardson, Legislative Representative.)

## Thank you!

**We would like to thank all who made donations, both large and small. Your contributions are important to furthering the goal of NARVRE.**

David Steward \$1550 for  
commissioning new website  
Norma Hapke in  
Memory of Mary David  
Victor Sundquist  
David Cook  
Andrew Cheselka  
Mandy Sebok  
Antone Oliveira  
Barbara Sherwood

Michael Iannone  
Walter Kavanagh  
Jose Cardenas  
Jeanette Baliff  
James Bross  
Eugene Hatfield  
Roy Harju  
Richard Foster  
Kim Johnson  
Jean Boruta



Unit #179 in Fort Dodge, IA is very proud to have Glenn Cue 94 and Marie Cue 93 as members. Marie worked as a telegrapher and depot agent for Illinois Central Railroad for 8+ years; in 14 stations. Glenn worked 36 years, 1947-1983, as agent/telegraph operator; and guided many trains containing frozen carloads of turkey, strawberries, potatoes and cabbage in Iowa, Illinois and Minnesota.

They both still enjoy teaching Boy Scouts telegraphy at Railroad Museums in Boone and Webster City, IA. Sometimes they work with 15-20 or even 50 Scouts as no one in nearby states still knows telegraphy.

Between their two families, over 48 relatives worked for railroads. Guess you can call them a REAL Railroad family.

## Memorials

Doreen Scott • Gerald McCafferty • Zeola Clements • Mary Thompson • William Shaver • Abb Humphrey • Hanna Leroy Anderson • Herman Boruta • Charles Moore • Lewis Holland





**TUCSON, UNIT NUMBER 063, DECEMBER 14, 2017 GROUP MEETING**

### **(National Legislative Director from page 1)**

Health Insurance Program (CHIP), whose federal funding ran out last September, and literally threatens the health and the lives of millions of America's children. A proposal to provide five years of funds for CHIP is supported by leaders of both parties, but they cannot agree on how to pay for it. This children's health program has always held strong bipartisan support ever since the creation of CHIP some 20 years ago, when Pres. Clinton was in office and Republicans held the majority in both the House &

Senate...and apparently when a situation like this was unthinkable. This program would not have been created back in 1997 without the joint leadership of Sen. Edward Kennedy (D) and Sen. Orrin Hatch (R). Recently, when Sen. Sherrod Brown asked if there's "something we can do to get the children's health insurance program done," Sen. Hatch's response was sincere..."we're going to do CHIP; there's no question about it in my mind. And it's got to be done the right way," Hatch said. "but the reason CHIP's having trouble is because we don't have money anymore, and to just add more and more spending,

and more and more spending, and you can look at the rest of the bill for the more and more spending." This came as he championed for the 2017 GOP tax bill that, according to the Joint Committee on Taxation's latest estimate, will add approximately \$1 trillion to the deficit (even when adjusted for economic growth) and which disproportionately benefits corporations and the wealthy.

We've ten months until the General Election(s). Have our elected officials served us well as seniors and former workers?

— Gary Faley,  
National Legislative Director

### **From the National Secretary-Treasurer —**

## **NARVRE to Launch New Website**

**O**n March 15, NARVRE will launch its new national Web site: [www.narvre.us](http://www.narvre.us). The new site has been designed to be easier to navigate and to provide NARVRE members and others with easy-to-find, easy-to-use information on protecting their Railroad Retirement rights. Best of all, the new site communicates NARVRE's essential purpose: standing up for us - beneficiaries of the Railroad Retirement system. We hope you'll check out the new site. Your ideas and suggestions are always welcome.

**Dues:** Please remember that dues are considered delinquent after Feb. 28, 2018.



**Worried about being a victim of Identity Theft?  
Worried your personal information is being bought & sold by criminals?**

**Need to get your Wills updated or done?  
Need legal advice?**

As a new value added to our N.A.R.V.R.E Members, we have partnered with LegalShield and IDShield to bring you the most affordable and comprehensive plans to protect you and your family. We want to pass along the following information about identity theft and legal plans;

plus other various discounts that are available to our members. Please visit this link: [www.legalshield.com/info/narvre](http://www.legalshield.com/info/narvre). We are excited to bring you these benefits - the best in the market! By protecting your family you will also be supporting N.A.R.V.R.E. as a portion of your membership will be given back to our association to support causes that are important to us and our industry.

## **IRS 990n**

We are again offering the service of filing IRS 990n. Units wishing our corporate accountant to perform this send check for \$8.00 to the National Office.

— James (Phil) Steward,  
National Secretary/Treasurer

## NARVRE NEWSLETTER

### Volume 32 Number 02

**National President**  
**Thomas Dwyer**  
11304 Norway St. NW  
Coon Rapids MN 55448-3269  
763-757-1501 FAX 763-767-5794  
tdwyertcu@aol.com

**National Vice President**  
**Anthony "Tony" Padilla**  
303 Black Cap Run  
Buda, TX 78610-4978  
Home: 512-523-8465  
Cell: 512-552-8703  
tonypadillatcuam@austin.rr.com

**National Secretary-Treasurer**  
**James (Phil) Steward**  
6819 Crumpler Blvd, Ste 200  
Olive Branch, MS 38654-1940  
1-800-551-2588  
narvre@gmail.com

**National Legislative Director**  
**Gary M Faley**  
6324 Calkins Road  
Flint, MI 48532-3207  
810-733-7256  
faleyg@comcast.net

**News deadline 10th of each month**  
**Mail to National Office**

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED  
AND VETERAN RAILWAY EMPLOYEES, INC.  
6819 Crumpler Blvd, Ste 200  
Olive Branch, MS 38654-1940  
FEBRUARY, 2018

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT 2826  
KANSAS CITY, MO

To avoid delays in delivery of your newsletter, please send us your change of address. You can email it to [narvre@gmail.com](mailto:narvre@gmail.com) or send by regular mail to 6819 Crumpler Blvd, Ste 200, Olive Branch, MS 38654-1940. Please include your name, old address and new address.

## 41st Biennial Convention

From the 2018 Convention Committee

Our Convention is fast approaching. In four months we will be meeting in Council Bluffs, Iowa, May 20-22, 2018. Time to send in your registrations and any ads you may want in our program booklet. DEADLINE for the guaranteed hotel rates is April 15, 2018 so be sure to make your reservations directly with the hotel ASAP.

### From Palmetto, GBA

## New Type of Medicare Claim Review Process

**M**edicare is always working to fight fraud and abuse. With that, a new type of claim review has recently begun: a process called Targeted Probe and Educate, or 'TPE' for short.

### How TPE Works:

Palmetto GBA/Railroad Medicare will conduct data analysis and find providers whose billing may be very different from their peers. Palmetto will also look at providers who have been identified as having a high error rate (having filed claims that should not be paid, due to medical necessity issues, billing or coding errors, or ones that do not have sufficient documentation to support the service was rendered as billed).

Once a provider is identified, Palmetto will request records for 20 to 40 services, depending on how much the provider has billed to Railroad Medicare.

After the claims are reviewed, a clinical staff member will contact the

provider by letter and by phone to go over their results and offer education on how to bill and document their services correctly. If the provider has a high error rate in the review, then Palmetto will ask for records for an additional 20-40 claims submitted for payment and follow the process outlined above. If the provider fails to improve again, then a last round of TPE is conducted. If the provider's error rate is still unacceptable, they will be referred to our Benefit Integrity Unit for investigation. The same is true for providers who refuse to respond to the records requests.

However, if the provider makes an appropriate improvement, they can be removed from the TPE process for a period of time, and then rechecked later to be sure they are still in compliance.

### If Your Provider Has Questions:

Your provider may have questions about this review process. If they do,

please ask them to call our Provider Contact Center at 888-355-9165 and select Option 5. Customer Service Representatives can assist them in understanding the TPE process. All Medicare contractors are using the TPE process to review claims.

If you have any questions about your Railroad Medicare coverage, please call our Beneficiary Contact Center at 800-833-4455, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. ET. For the hearing impaired, call TTY/TDD at 877-566-3572. This line is for the hearing impaired with the appropriate dial-up service and is available during the same hours Customer Service Representatives are available.

We encourage you to visit our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/myrrmedicare](https://www.facebook.com/myrrmedicare). We also invite you to join our listserv/email updates. Just select the 'Listserves' link at the top of our main webpage at [www.PalmettoGBA.com/RR/Me](http://www.PalmettoGBA.com/RR/Me).

— Jennifer Johnson