



— SINCE 1937 —

National Association of Retired & Veteran Railway Employees, Inc.

NARVRE National Office

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Published ten times a year

Cost — Membership in a Unit or Membership-at-Large



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NARVRE NEWSLETTER

July 2017

VOL. 31 NO. 06

FROM THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT —

Once again we are putting out a clarion call in regards to vacancies in two area director positions one which has been vacant since June of last year shortly after our convention in St. Louis.

We are seeking a Director in Area 7 which is composed of the states of Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington. Any dues paying member is eligible man or woman for this vacancy. Area Directors are members of the Governing Board. Duties of an AD are to establish new Units, stay in touch with established Units, be a good salesman and public relations person and just use common sense in communication when working with others.

An Area's Director job is to communicate with the National Office and the local Units within their jurisdiction as well as implementing the policies of the National Association between conventions. All AD must keep in

touch with the National Vice President and inform him of activities in his/her area.

An Area Director is an automatic delegate to the National Convention every two years of which the next one is in Council Bluffs, Iowa in May 2018.

The other vacancy is in Area 3 composing states of Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont. This vacancy is as of May 1, 2017 and the same qualifications apply as Area 7. Any dues paying member that is interested should contact the National Vice President Tony Padilla for further information at Home (512) 523-8465 or Cell (512) 552-8703. Email tonypadillatcuam@austin.rr.com.

We would appreciate interested parties to inquire as these are voluntary positions the same as your national officers. Thank you for your consideration.

— Tom Dwyer, National President

FROM THE NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR —

In last April's article, I wrote on the latest GOP proposal to replace the still-existing national healthcare law (Obamacare). That legislation was scored by the government non-partisan CBO agency, and was declared to be a terribly unfair measure that would strip healthcare coverage from some 24 million Americans, and privatize our Medicare system with an obvious financial bias to the private healthcare industry, adding more unreasonable fees and deductibles onto the elderly and sicker beneficiaries in our national Medicare system that serves over 57 million seniors. However, the prediction that the GOP bill would continue to be delayed was wrong, as Speaker Paul Ryan was able to pass his bill through the House by the needed 218 House votes, all from his republican party, of course. As a defense against the forthcoming criticism in their hometown Districts, many GOP members that voted in favor of this terrible piece of legislation, were quick to pronounce their House bill as DOA in the Senate, suggesting the Senate would not pass such a measure (I am not making this up)! And they were correct in that assumption, up until last week, as the Senate Majority leader has announced their plans to bring a bill up **before July 4th** to repeal the Afford-

able Care Act, with no hearings or open debate in the Senate. This bill is very similar to the House bill with 23 million people losing their insurance, and families paying higher premiums and out-of-pocket costs for inadequate healthcare. The Senate package further forces Americans aged 50-64 to pay an "age-tax", and takes funds from Medicare and gives huge tax cuts to millionaires. Both proposals from the House and the Senate will end the current mandatory coverage for those with pre-existing conditions, and make them fend for themselves in unfair high-risk pools run by the states...if the states chose to join in such programs. We must fight these efforts and work to save Medicare and keep what we have. NARVRE has always worked to preserve existing benefits, and strengthen railroad retirement and railroad Medicare. Now is the time to make sure our own Representatives in Congress know where we stand as railroad retirees. The White House and the House and Senate are all in control of the Republican party. Certain fears will become a reality if American seniors don't get active as constituents. The fact on this particular issue is that the majority party wants to destroy healthcare and give tax breaks to the wealthiest and hand over our national healthcare law to the private healthcare industry. They also propose to

continued on page 3

From the National Vice President —



ARTICLE II of the NARVRE By-laws affirm “The purpose of N.A.R.V.R.E., is for the study of the legislative principles and processes of the Railroad Retirement Act of 1937 enacted by Public Law # 162. It shall be in the interest of N.A.R.V.R.E. to actively pursue cooperation between both retired and active railroad employees of actions affecting these principles. By this we

may alert its members to a unified action that can bring attention to the fact the larger bodies of votes are keenly aware of changes trying to be made contrary to our interest. We the members, current and former railways employees will uphold and lend aid and strength to its members, standard railway organizations, senior citizens groups and other organizations who are promoting the general welfare of retired railroad people in the United States of America.”

With that in mind, I remind our membership that we work with all the railroad unions and retiree organizations to preserve our earned Senior Citizens’ pensions and healthcare benefits.

On May 7 to May 11th, Robert Scardelletti President of The TCU-IAM and International President of the IAM Bob Martinez invited NARVRE President Tom Dwyer, National Legislative Director Gary Faley and National VP Tony Padilla to their Legislative Conference in Washington D.C. as part of their Retirees activists to save our RRB Pension, Social Security, Medicare, and Health Care. These are the issues that affect all seniors who depend on these benefits to live and enjoy a dignified retirement during their golden years. Along with about 400 other members of the IAM we lobbied on over 14 issues affecting workers in this volatile Congress and Presidential Administration.

The NARVRE leadership concentrated on our prime issues to protect our railroad retirement and healthcare benefits including AMTRAK and other Transportation issues. We were successful and delivering the message to the Congress. In a larger scale, we must keep up the NARVRE Grass-roots lobby when our membership is called to action by ALERTS from our National Legislative Director Gary Faley not forgetting that our NARVRE goal is to Promote, Protect and Preserve our Railroad Pension Annuity and Railroad Medicare, Medicaid and an affordable health care, including Social Security which is our Tier I of our RRB Pension Annuity and Unemployment and Disability protections.

We will keep an eye on the recent introduced Presidential FY2018 Budget release of May 23, 2017 which makes cuts to all the aforesaid issues affecting all working families at the expense of seniors to give huge Tax Cuts to the top 1% of the wealthiest Companies and to the Millionaire, Billionaires, The FY2018 Budget also makes cuts to all Amtrak’s long distance trains which means that over 10,000 employees lose their jobs and stop paying into the Railroad Retirement Trust Fund.

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



Gary Faley Ntl. NARVRE Legislative Director, Sen Bernie Sanders, NARVRE NVP Tony Padilla



Tony Padilla TARA Sec. & Ntl. VP of NARVRE with Doug Molof Senior Advisor for TX Congressman Lloyd Doggett.



IAMAW IP Bob Martinez Joins Press Conference to support Pension protection Legislation introduced by Senator Bernie Sanders and Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-OH) in the House.



NARVRE Ntl. Legislative Director Gary Faley; Tom Dwyer NARVRE National President; Legislative Assistant Eddie Wytkind for Congressman Rick Nolan of MN; And Tony Padilla TARA-EF Secretary and VP of NARVRE.

(National Legislative Director from page 1)

change our current Medicare system into a voucher system. If the majority leaders in the House and Senate can pass their legislation, as written, the President will sign it. We must tell our own Senators to protect us as American seniors.

We have recently contacted our members that are on our legislative email lists urging them to use our toll-free numbers to ensure that Amtrak remains protected from the Trump budget proposals for FY2018. As a

reminder, we were successful in getting a funding increase for Amtrak in their funding levels for this year, but spending for fiscal year 2017 ends on 9/30/17. NARVRE has been involved with most Amtrak issues, and we are proud to have actively supported the successful passing of the FAST ACT law of 2015, which highlighted passenger train service in that long-term surface transportation bill. I mentioned this bill when Trump was first elected, as we were hopeful he would tie that innovative legislation to his previous campaign comments on the need for faster train service,

and importantly, to garner the needed bipartisan support of Congress, in finding the revenue for his promise to build a new rail service and begin a massive \$1 trillion transportation and infrastructure (T&I) plan across the nation. He has disappointed on the "faster train" talk, and his promise on T&I projects have not been on target. He should have noticed that the Fast Act funding for Amtrak (\$8.1 billion over 5 years) was a negotiated business plan with adequate money for Amtrak train service into the future, for many years to come. However, the new President is now calling for cuts in Amtrak funding, as he proposes to eliminate crucial long distance train routes which serves 40 percent of America's rural population in 46 states. This is not in line with the business plan and vision of the Fast Act, and ignores the fact that additional and faster trains will require public investment. Rather, this businessman turned President, falls in line with the standard GOP vision to first starve Amtrak, then propose legislation for its privatization. I'll remind all that we lived through earlier attempts during the reign of the former House T&I Chairman, John Mica, as we (and other colleagues) defeated Mica's plans to slowly destroy Amtrak. However, those were different times, when the Senate and the White House were controlled by advocates of Amtrak and passenger train service.

I recently read a letter from Amtrak President/CEO Wick Moorman in response to the President's proposals to disrupt existing Amtrak services, stating that eliminating Amtrak long distance rail service will actually cost the country more money--an additional \$423 million dollars more in FY 2018 alone. We'll follow this, and have more to say on the T&I proposals. Congress toll-free #'s follow, so be sure to contact your Reps... it's that important! The message is to protect American rail jobs and provide adequate funding for Amtrak as written in the bipartisan FAST ACT legislation of 2015. ****

Contact Congress - 877-668-3864 & 877-668-3866.

— Gary Faley,
National Legislative Director

From the National Secretary-Treasurer —

We are now in the process of updating the 2018-19 NARVRE National Directory which contains unit officers names and contact information plus meeting locations and schedules. Unit Presidents: please make sure the

Officer Election forms have been completed and sent to the National Office at 6819 Crumpler Blvd Suite 200 Olive Branch MS 38654

What's Going On

Across the country the Railroad Retirement Board is conducting informational meetings for future retirees and NARVRE representatives are invited to set up shop at these various locations such as pictured:



**NARVRE representative, retiree,
John Russell of Unit 56 St Louis**

Unit 103 Cumberland MD 20th annual picnic with open invitation to unit 173 Altoona Pa, Sept 13, 2017, at Condition Park Cumberland MD. 11am. Cost is \$7 for members and \$10 for nonmembers. For details contact Harry Foreback 301-777-0472.

Commemorating Memorial Day weekend Unit 043 Conneaut OH Viet Nam Veteran members Jim Jones, Tim Adang, Bob Golden, and Davis Herlacher placed over 450 American flags in a local cemetery in Conneaut OH.

— James (Phil) Steward,
National Secretary/Treasurer

NARVRE Ohio State Biennial Meeting

The Ohio State Biennial Meeting was held on May 20, 2017 in Strongsville, OH. We had 80 attendees for the meeting. The attending speakers were: National President, Tom Dwyer; National Vice President, Tony Padilla; Gary Faley, National Legislative Director; JJ Grabner, Area 2 Director. Also speaking were: John Ryan, Senator Brown's office; Angela Paulkinis, United Health Care; Niaunda Curtis, Railroad Retirement; Jennifer Johnson, Railroad Medicare and Bill Walpert, National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust and Whitey Westphal, Ohio Legislative Representative. They all spoke on their particular positions and stressed membership.

Ohio State officers for the next two years are: Ruth Teper, President; Carl Taddeo, Vice President; Bob Teper, Secretary/Treasurer and Whitey Westphal, Ohio Legislative Representative.

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Volume 31 Number 06

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News deadline 10th of each month
Mail to National Office

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JULY, 2017

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DONATIONS

Diamond \$1000: None at this time

Platinum \$500: None at this time

Gold \$200: Ken and Rochelle Kolberg; David and Judy Taylor

Silver \$100.00: George Joyce

Friend \$50.00: Unit 54 Creston, IA
President Robert Williams, VP Bruce Brown, Sec Richard Springer, Treas Lila McCann, LR Jim Garrett; Unit 186 Salina/Abilene KS President and LR Tony Schmitt, Sec/Treas Hank Sanchez

Donations: Carole Klees; Alexander Sanchez; George Ed Viar

IN MEMORY

Gale Garst, Richard Rengel, Helen Waverek, Terrance Storwick, Patricia Sykes, Roger J King, Richard V Hammer II, Charles D Moore, Wallace P Schulz, Howard Cosner, Herman J Boruta II, Lois Ann Baird, Richard Raatz, Sidney J Monroe, Henry E Wozniak, Roy Krabbenhoft, Margaret J Kelly, Laurence (Larry) W Cantwell

From Palmetto, GBA

When Does Medicare Consider a Service Medically Necessary

In many of our articles, we speak to how Medicare pays only when a service is 'medically necessary', also known as 'reasonable and necessary'. That can be hard for a patient to determine. This column focuses on how Medicare determines 'medical necessity' in order to pay or deny a claim.

'Reasonable (Medically) and Necessary' describes services that are:

- Safe and effective (Not experimental or investigational)
- Appropriate, including the duration and frequency that is considered appropriate for the service, in terms of whether it is:
 - Provided within accepted standards of medical practice for the diagnosis or treatment of the patient's condition or to improve the function of a malformed body member
 - Performed in a setting appropriate to the patient's medical needs and condition
 - Ordered and provided by qualified personnel
 - Meeting, but does not exceeding, the patient's medical need

Here are some examples of when Medicare pays, as long as the services are proven by the documentation supplied by your doctor to support medical necessity:

- Pneumococcal, influenza and hepatitis B vaccines are covered if they are reasonable and necessary for the prevention of illness
- Screen mammography is covered if it is within frequency limits and meets quality standards
- Screening pap smears and screening pelvic exam are covered if they are within frequency limits
- Prostate cancer screening tests are covered if within frequency limits
- Colorectal cancer screening tests are covered if within frequency limits
- One pair of conventional eyeglasses or contact lenses furnished subsequent to each cataract surgery with insertion of an intraocular lens

To learn about frequency limits for the screening tests, please see the 'Your Guide to Medicare's Preventive Services' article located on our website at www.PalmettoGBA.com/RR/Me.

If you have a question about the medical necessity of a claim, you may call our Beneficiary Contact Center at 800-833-4455, or for the hearing impaired, call TTY/TDD at 877-566-3572. Customer Service Representatives are available Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. until 7 p.m. ET. We also encourage you to visit our Facebook page at www.Facebook.com/MyRRMedicare.

— Jennifer Johnson