

# THE 740 EXPRESS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES, CHAPTER 740

[www.crompton.com/NARFE740](http://www.crompton.com/NARFE740)

January 1, 1999

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**Next Chapter Meetings:** Our next meeting will be on Thursday **January 21, 1999** at the Warrington Motor Lodge, Route 611 (just North of Street Rd.) at 12:00 Noon. Call Beryl Fogelsanger (343-3467) early in the week. **Please attend and show your support.**

### **Attend the January 21st Chapter meeting to hear guest speaker Courtney Yelle.**

#### **The Bucks County Consumer Advocate will talk on "SELF DEFENSE AGAINST SCAMS AND FLIM FLAMS"**

Seniors are potential victims for swindlers. Courtney Yelle is responsible for the investigation and mediation of consumer complaints, and the education of consumers on laws and responsibilities that affect them. His presentation promises to be informative, entertaining, and help people to recognize the "red flags" of fraud and to know their consumer rights. He encourages consumers to be "tough targets" against swindlers. His talk also includes pointers on how to fight back, and there will be useful reference material including addresses and telephone numbers. Q&A will follow

### **February 18, 1999 Chapter Meeting:**

**Thomas E. Willey** will present a lecture on **TRUSTS**. This is particularly an important subject for seniors who are leaving estates and would like to minimize taxes and legal fees, and maintain control over their money during their lifetime. Questions and Answer period follows. Attend this presentation, it may save money and grief.

**ADDRESS UPDATE:** It is very important to keep addresses up to date. Many important notices are sent throughout the year to the addresses OPM has on file. Members should let OPM and NARFE Chapter 740 know their new address ASAP

**DISABILITY EARNING SURVEY:** OPM will mail the annual earnings survey by mid-February 1999 to all disability retirees under age 60. They will be asked to respond only if they had income from work in 1998. Disability annuitants, under age 60 whose income exceed 80 percent of the current rate of base pay for the position from which they retired may have their disability benefit terminated effective July 1, 1999.

**WAIVER OF DIRECT DEPOSIT:** The 1996 Debt Collection Improvement Act (known as EFT 99) requires federal payments to be issued by some form of Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) beginning 1/1/99, unless you are eligible for a waiver. Most payment agencies have not issued waiver procedures. Social Security and Supplemental Security income beneficiaries who want or need to continue receiving monthly benefits by check do not need to do anything.

**IMPROVED SERVICE FOR SURVIVOR ANNUITANTS:** OPM has initiated a new application for death benefits. This new application form will be used only for survivor cases placed in "Express Pay." All other CSRS death claims will continue to use Standard Form (SF) 2800, Application for Death Benefits.

### **1999 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMS FOR NARFE:**

We recommend that you read the **NARFE January 1999 Retirement Life** for a detailed presentation on **NARFE's Legislative Programs**; also note the **TEN Worst Mistakes Federal Employees and Retirees make.** An outline of the legislation programs includes:

COLA Equity, Objective CPI, CSRDF Off-Budget, Trust Solvency, Survivor Benefits study, Retain FEHBP & Premiums, Oppose MSA's, Long Term Care, Medicare..., Repeal WEP, Repeal GPO, Safeguard federal retirees from Social Security Reforms, and attempt to achieve Tax Equity.

**HELP US HELP YOU! Our Special Projects Committee needs help** in preparing tasks to quickly respond to legislators as well as keep fellow retirees informed by clearly identifying threats to our earned retirement benefits. Please call or e-mail us! Better still attend the next meeting on Jan 21. You can make a difference. Your membership counts.

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**NECROLOGY:** Please let us know when you hear that one of our honored members has passed on, so we can share it with friends and associates. Remember them, their spouses and families with memorials and appreciations for their accomplishments and duty to the United States. Please note: Alexander J. Kozera of Chalfont passed away 4-14-1998.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Please encourage your fellow Federal retirees to join and retain membership in NARFE Chapter 740. Our chapter seeks strong, involved members so we can support legislation that will strengthen our retirement. Remember, your spouse is encouraged to become a member. Spouse members will also benefit upon becoming survivors. Our Chapter represents both the retiree and spouses, both are invited to join and participate.

**NEED HELP?:** Call the Federal Retiree Assistance Center, (215) 597-0419. The Center is located at the Federal Building, Rm. 1208, 6th and Arch Sts, Philadelphia, and handles OPM/FEHB problems only (incorrect payments, non-receipt of checks, etc.). Office hours are 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. OPM can be contacted on ANY federal retirement matter by calling 1-888-767-6738. Be sure to have your PIN number handy.

**OPM'S ANNUITANT EXPRESS** The toll-free automated telephone system that went into operation in January of last year, for its first service permitted retirees to make federal tax withholding changes for the 1998 tax season. The number, in case you've mislaid it, is 1-800-409-6528 -- and don't forget your PIN number.

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#### **CONGRESSIONAL CONTACTS**

**The Honorable Arlen Specter**  
Rm 530 Hart Senate Office Bldg  
Washington, DC 20510  
1-202-224-4254 & 1-215-597-7200

**The Honorable Rick Santorum**  
B-40 Dirkson Senate office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510  
1-202-224-6324 & 1-215-684-6900

#### **8<sup>th</sup> DISTRICT**

**Congressman James Greenwood**  
Rm 515 Cannon House Office Bldg  
Washington, DC 20515  
1-202-225-4276 & 1-215-348-7511

#### **13<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT**

**Congressman Joseph M. Hoeffel, III**  
1229 Longwood Office Bldg  
Washington, DC 20515  
202-225-6111

#### **FEDERAL RETIREMENT ASSISTANCE CENTER**

**William Green Federal Building Rm 4300, 600 Arch St. Phila. PA 19106**  
**Monday, Wednesday & Friday 10AM to 2PM (1-215-861-3661)**

**Important numbers:** Capitol switchboard 202-224-3121, 1-800-522-6721, 1-800-692-3524, 1-800-972-3524; Bill Status 202-225-1772; White House comment line 202/456-1111 (FAX 2461); [president@whitehouse.gov](mailto:president@whitehouse.gov); Supreme Court 202-479-3000; OPM 202-606-1000; Federal Election Commission 1-800-424-9530; **OPM 1-88-US-OPM-RET (1-888-767-6738) & 1-202 606-0500**; NARFE Hotline 202-234-0503; If you have access to the Internet NARFE HQ "www.narfe.org"; review our newsletter and links on WEB site: [www.crompton.com/NARFE740](http://www.crompton.com/NARFE740);

Sign up for Free FEDWEEK at: [www.FEDweek.com](http://www.FEDweek.com)

**Doylestown Chapter 740, NARFE**  
**Max Schwartz, President**  
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**Elkins Park, Pa. 19027-2218**

To: