

THE 740 EXPRESS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES, CHAPTER 740

www.crompton.com/NARFE740

June 8, 2001

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Next Chapter Meeting: Our next meeting will be on Thursday June 21, 2001 at the Giuseppe's Pizza & Restaurant in Warminster at 1PM. (215-674- 5550) Please plan to attend and show your support. We want you to be involved and participate in NARFE 740 efforts for our retirement support activities. We need new members to take actions and participate in activities. Call Teeny at 215-345-9098 if you plan to attend. Bring a fellow federal retiree. Bring your Spouse.

Retirement Bills Garner Backers: Several bills aimed at relieving two Social Security benefit reductions applying to certain federal retirees and survivors are gaining co-sponsors in Congress, although no legislative action has yet been scheduled on any of the measures, which have been introduced in Congress many times over the years. A House bill to soften the government pension offset, which reduces spousal or survivor Social Security benefits for those also receiving an annuity from a retirement program that doesn't include Social Security, such as CSRS, has 224 co-sponsors. Since that number is more than half the House, which effectively virtually guarantees the bill would pass if brought to a vote. Backers also crossed that critical number last year, however, and the measure never moved beyond a subcommittee hearing. A Senate counterpart bill (S-611) has 18 sponsors. Retirement 'Windfall' Provision also targeted a record number of co-sponsors, 149, has signed on to a bill (HR-1073) to ease the effect of the windfall elimination provision, which reduces the personal Social Security benefits of those with less than 30 years of substantial service in jobs covered by that system, again primarily affecting those who work under CSRS most of their careers. A bill to eliminate that penalty entirely (HR-848), meanwhile, has only 72 co-sponsors.

Here is a snapshot of the seven House and four Senate bills we are tracking:

The seven House bills are: 1) H.R. 572, Off Budget, Rep. Michael Bilirakis (FL-9) has 64 cosponsors; 2) H.R. 664, **Government Pension Offset Reform**, Rep. William Jefferson (LA-2) has 232 cosponsors, <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d107:HR00664:@@N> ; 3) H.R. 831, LTC Insurance Premium Tax Deduction, Rep. Nancy Johnson (CT-6) has 65 cosponsors; 4) H.R. 848, Windfall Elimination Provision Repeal, Rep. Max Sandlin (TX-1) has 87 cosponsors; 5) H.R. 1073, Windfall Elimination Provision Modification, Rep. Barney Frank (MA-4) has 162 cosponsors; 6) H.R. 1177, Limit Medicare Late Enrollment Penalty, Rep. Frank has 33 cosponsors; and 7) H.R. 1307, FEHBP Premium Share Change, Rep. Steny Hoyer (MD-5) has 39 cosponsors.

The four Senate bills are: 1) S. 155, Equity for Dual Status National Guard Technicians, Sen. Jeff Bingaman (NM) has 8 cosponsors; 2) S. 561, FEHBP Premium Conversion, Sen. Collins (ME) is not seeking cosponsors; 3) S. 611, **Government Pension Offset Reform**, Sen. Barbara Mikulski (MD) has 18 cosponsors, <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d107:S000611:@@N> ; and 4) S. 627, LTC Insurance Premium Tax Deduction, Sen. Charles Grassley (IA) has 8 cosponsors.

LTC: The federal government's long-term care insurance program won't be available until late 2002, at the earliest. Furthermore, when it becomes available, you'll have to make many choices, each of which can make the difference between complete or incomplete coverage, between premiums you may or may not be able to afford. In fact, you may decide not to buy this long-term care insurance at all, or to buy it from another source, but you must be educated on this highly important life-affecting issue. These decisions certainly won't be easy, yet they might make a tremendous difference to you and your loved ones.

FedWEEK just published a BRAND NEW HANDBOOK, "The Long-Term Care Insurance Handbook for Federal Employees, Military Personnel & Their Families."

As reported last newsletter and discussed during the last meeting we would like to personally meet again with Representative Greenwood about the inherent unfair legislation that single out Federal Retirees with abusive cuts. Please let us know if you could help draft up the presentation to be given to Rep. Greenwood. It is important that the opportunity to meet with him is fully, clearly and honestly representing the abuse to any or all Federal Retirees. The presentation is a matter of fairness and right.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! WHAT INFORMATION DO YOU WANT TO HEAR ABOUT? WHAT CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEWSLETTER? WHAT DO YOU AGREE WITH OR DISAGREE? GIVE US YOUR COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS? CHECK OUT OUR WEB SITE (www.crompton.Com/NARFE740) IF YOU CAN'T ATTEND THE MEETING GIVE US A CALL OR WRITE TO US. YOUR IDEAS ARE VERY IMPORTANT TO ALL OF YOUR FELLOW RETIREES. WE NEED YOUR HELP! How do you like the newsletter? Comments? Suggestions? Do you want to help by providing articles / information? Please call John DeMatteo 215-345-9033 (or e-mail JDemat@aol.com): Confirm your address and telephone number, as well as your e-mail address.

NEED HELP?: Call the Federal Retiree Assistance Center, (215) 861- 3661 (NEW!)

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.

NECROLOGY: It is our sad duty to report that our former treasurer *Beryl Fogelsanger* has passed away on May 30, 2001. Her life long contribution to the government included service as a WAC during the war (including 2 years at the Pentagon) and a full career for the IRS. We miss her and her support to this chapter. Our condolences and very best wishes to her husband Melvin and their sons. Memorial contributions may be made in her name to the American Diabetes Association.

**Doylestown Chapter 740, NARFE
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