



National Association of Retired & Veteran Railway Employees, Inc.



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NARVRE NEWSLETTER

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FROM THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT —

This correspondence is addressed to all Units and members of NARVRE for your awareness. Recently, we had a Unit closure whereby the Unit with good intentions purchased gift cards for their members in violation of IRS Code 501(c) 4 which prohibits local Units using NARVRE Unit funds to benefit individuals.

Unit action, although taken with good intention, threatened the tax-exempt status not only to the Unit in question but the NARVRE National Organization as well.

In 2018, at the NARVRE National Convention in Council Bluffs, IA, the delegates adopted Resolution No. 1, stating the following: Resolved that the designated Unit Officer notifies the National Secretary who will advise, assist and determine validity of closure. Send copies of the last two bank statements to the national office, send Unit Charter to national office and furnish roster with list of names of members who wish to become members at-large of Unit 801. BANK ACCOUNT FUNDS OF CLOSING UNIT ARE PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION and upon closing Unit bank account, those funds must be transferred to the national office.

The bottom line here is that all NARVRE Local Units are under the same tax status as the national organization. When closure occurs, the above resolution is in force. Monies in local Unit treasuries are not to be spent on individuals nor outside organizations beforehand. NARVRE's tax exempt status is at risk if violated.

— Tom Dwyer, National President

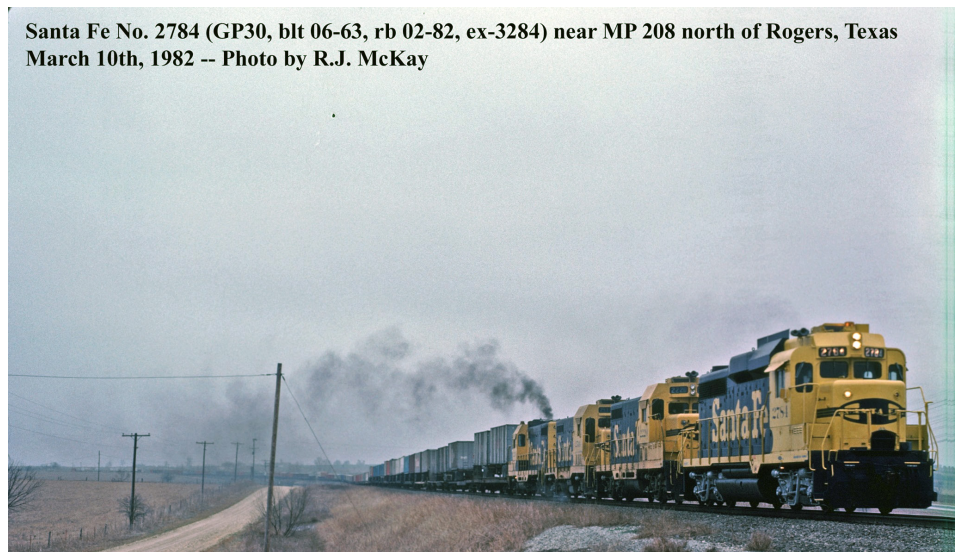
FROM THE NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR —

Democrats continue to hold the majority in the House of Representatives, but with fewer members in this new 117th Congress. Democrats lost 13 seats in the 2020 election and now hold a narrow majority of 10 seats, down from their lead of 36. The Senate is now tied at 50-50, with the vice-president casting the 51st vote to break any tie. And that means the Democrats will control the chairmanships of the Senate Permanent Committees, who will hold a majority of the seats on each committee and control staffing assignments, resources, as well as the Senate calendar. However, there is a precedent agreement from the 2001 50-50 Senate that negotiated a power-sharing agreement with equal membership on committees and equal budgets for both parties. That agreement also allows for both leaders to advance legislation out of committees that might be deadlocked. Both Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell will likely

enter into discussions about such an arrangement. The Biden Administration will quickly propose their stimulus relief legislation or "The American Rescue Package" to immediately address the effects of COVID-19, but they can expect opposition from the Senate republicans who just recently passed their version of an economic relief bill on 12/28/20. That legislation does contain the requested \$1 billion Amtrak funding (thank you members for contacting your Senators), and while it does not address all of the needs outlined by Amtrak leadership, it does stop the bleeding, and will let them avoid the worse-case scenarios (railpassengers.org). Any success for proposals from a new Biden Administration will need Senate democrats to stay united in this 50-50 Senate, and if they can't garner the needed bipartisan support to reach at least 60 votes, the Democrats might use budget reconciliation procedures to move their rescue plan

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Santa Fe No. 2784 (GP30, blt 06-63, rb 02-82, ex-3284) near MP 208 north of Rogers, Texas March 10th, 1982 -- Photo by R.J. McKay



From the National Vice President —

Time seems to be passing fast. It is almost impossible to believe that we are now into the 2nd year of the Covid-19 Pandemic that resulted in the cancellation of our National Convention of May of 2020.

Although some units are meeting and observing safety guidelines, a small number of units are meeting virtually. Most units have not been able to hold regular meetings with members, resulting in being unable to come together in person to collect new membership dues for both the Local Unit and National Membership Dues.

At the end of the FY2020 the Governing Board of NARVRE met to discuss and focus on the continuing hazard of the Covid-19 Pandemic. We discussed the financial outlook for 2021, and we determined we will be in fluent financial condition, ready to handle the upcoming National NARVRE Convention in Sacramento in May of 2022 and beyond.

Although some of the population is now receiving immunization, the country is short of being able to have an entire population immunized. We

are hopeful that the country is able to be immunized by the end of 2021, so we can be ready to conduct our unit meetings and also have our regular meetings. This will better help us to prepare for the NARVRE Convention in May of 2022. So, it is extremely important for NARVRE to be in a healthy financial future, and for NARVRE to be strong to Protect Promote and Preserve — the very essence to keep our RRB Pension Annuity sound and protected.

It is crucial that all members try to recruit new members. All Area Directors are encouraged to mobilize their respective units in their areas to identify delinquent members. We need to follow up with those who are not up to date paying their membership dues. Members whose dues are not paid by February 28 are delinquent. The National Secretary Treasurer reminded the officers at the Governing Board meeting held in December 2020 all officers of each unit are responsible for notifying the National Office of all additions and deletions to the membership rolls. Nationally, we have a total of 103 active Units. To date, we have 13,890 members which include 801 members with 2,880 members late which are equal to \$55,496 in arrears.

Additionally, our National Secretary Treasurer reported to the Governing Board that at the end of each year since 2012 we ended up with a deficit, but at the end of 2019 we ended up with a surplus of \$19,068 and anticipate a surplus ending year 2020. So, we started 2021 with good news.

In the past, President Tom Dwyer has reported some of the reasons for the drop in membership, which is not for a lack of effort to recruit. It is more the loss of membership due to abandonments of railroad facilities in various locations that once flourished with railroad workers who are no longer there. Also, not to dismiss the number of losses due to old age and death which also results in Unit closures. With that in mind, I will reiterate, as I have done in the past, that our entire membership continues to recruit at least one new member and to include spouses.

I want especially to thank all sponsorships of memorials to honor our members and leaders of the different Units. Every contribution is appreciated, no matter what the amount is, it is greatly appreciated.

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

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through the Senate with a simple majority vote. NARVRE and senior/retiree supporters all have reasons to be hopeful for 2021 proposals meant to protect senior issues such as Medicare and a new re-formulated COLA that will be based on the real spending patterns of seniors living on retirement budgets. Solid well-written legislation aimed to strengthen the benefits of seniors and retirees will be re-introduced in the new 117th Congress, along with innovative and well-funded proposals for Amtrak, and rail passenger operations, with 21st century investments in transportation & infrastructure. In closing, we welcome a new administration that has claimed to have a federally led plan, in producing and implementing a structure for a universal vaccination program. That would be a long overdue change if this new administration will keep their promises

relative to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The January 6, 2021 attack on the U.S. Capitol shocked us all, as did the overall surprise of a limited and un-prepared police presence. There were reports that many Capitol Hill employees had been advised to stay home on Wednesday, Jan 6th, due to the common knowledge of the scheduled rally taking place on the same day. Although the police question has not been properly explained, we can however, be proud of the Capitol Police that stood their ground in resistance to the force of armed radicals. The crowd was apparently led by fanatics intent on disrupting Congress in order to stop the inevitable result of a fair election that would declare the next President of the United States. The record will indicate that the insurrection failed as the House and Senate, and Vice-President Pence declared the winner to be Joe Biden, based on the certified outcomes of all 50 states. After being defeated by more than seven (7) million votes, the Trump campaign

took to the courts claiming election irregularities in different states, but the rulings of over 90 judges have all uniformly dismissed the claims as lacking evidence and/or legal basis. Multiple states counted and recounted, always producing the same results that the President ultimately had lost the 2020 election. It should be noted that In many cases, members of state election commissions, as well as Secretaries of State, and numerous judges as well, were Republicans from red states. The Supreme Court (to include three Trump appointees), refused to consider a petition that requested the court to prevent four states from casting votes in the Electoral College for Biden. It should be pointed out that Joe Biden was declared the winner of the popular vote in each of the mentioned states. Once again, the President's case was dismissed for lacking evidence. Trump's own administration has called this the most secure election in history and

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Thank you!

We would like to thank all who made donations, both large and small. Your contributions are important to advancing the organizational goals of NARVRE.

James J Murphy • Lawrence Yoble • Richard & Michele Foster • Dale & Margaret Vrana • Albert Eelman • Alfred Bozella • Alfred Flores • Alfred Flores • Andrew Merrick • Antone Oliveira • Arden Hubbard • Arthur Diehl • Arthur Hecht • Audrey Lilly • Avis Lee • B.J. Webb • Barbara Meyer • Barbara Wells • Bernard Carlton • Betsy Jones • Betty Cothran • Beverly Baughman • Bill Dunbar • Bobby Nichols • Byron Schuetz • Carl Domotses • Carmella Levitt • Carol Elvin • Carroll Fulmer • Charlene Koch • Charles Alumbaugh • Charles Bates • Charles Mc Culley • Charles Shannon • Charles Stanley • Charlotte Dargie • Cheryl Quick • Chester Henderson • Chris Nelson • Clifford Hix • Conley Petty • Cyril Ziesmer • Dale Lamphear • Daniel Milone • Daniel Rinaldi • David Blutt • David Corless • David Goldsboro • David Lowell • David Mc Broom • David Morgan • David Pfeiler • Debra Nelms • Dennis Hanson • Devere Davis • Donald Beeler • Donald Griffin • Donald Hoenstine • Donna Gamacho • Dorothy Nicholas • Douglas Olson • E O Argabright • Edna Bielefeld • Edward Schneuder • Edwin Blum • Edwin Strong • Eldridge Tucker • Ellen Nutter • Elsie Cullins • Frank Danenfeizer • Frank Grabowski • Frank Quinn • Frank Viola • George Grogan Jr • George Helfrich • Gerald

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the Trump appointed Attorney General Bill Barr declared that “the U.S. Justice Department found no evidence of widespread voter fraud that could change the outcome of the 2020 election”. The final Electoral College has been formally certified, the siege is over, five people are dead, and the insurgency was based on a lie. Pipe bombs were planted at both democratic and republican offices where

Donations Breaking Through

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Memorials

Yuvonne Tinsley - Chaplain Unit 130 • Norman Camp JR • Edna Kremers • Terrance N Lohrbach • Betty Hundley • Christine Mc Ham • Frank Arundel • Thomas F Lynch Jr • Gary Farver • Richard Burdick • Paul E Gordenier • Madelyn E Reiter • Pearl M Scott • Ralph W “Chic” Harrison JR • Marie Zimitsch • Jerome G Bovy • Jacqueline M Phillippi • Bonnie Shipman

From the National Secretary-Treasurer — HAPPY NEW YEAR

This month I am significantly reducing The National Secretary Treasurer submission in order to accommodate the names of donors which we certainly honor and appreciate. Much of my report is incorporated in National Vice President Tony Padilla’s column for which I am most appreciative. Just a couple of reminders. First Unit Annual Audit Report Forms are due February 28, 2021. The forms are available on our website www.narvre.us or contact the National Office to request forms or if you need assistance. Secondly, if you require or need unit IRS form 990n to be completed and filed send \$8.00 check to the National Office with your unit request.

— James (Phil) Steward,
National Secretary/Treasurer

young, innocent staffers could have died if the bombs had been activated. We have a history of NARVRE members who have previously worked on Capitol Hill and walked those halls for many years. Many will take this as a direct and personal attack. All Americans should recognize this as a disrespectful and seditious attack, on the deadliest day of the Covid-19 pandemic so far, nearly 4000 deaths on January 6, 2021.

—Gary Faley,
National Legislative Director

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Details About the Coronavirus Vaccines

While we are coming up to the one-year anniversary of the coronavirus being present in the United States, we are happy to report that Medicare is taking action with the administration of the coronavirus vaccine across the country.

As the vaccinations roll out, we are receiving questions about the process, and we would like to share them and the answers with you. They are:

What does the vaccine cost?

The vaccine is free. Medicare will pay your provider for administering the vaccine, and you will not be charged in any way. If a provider tries to collect co-pays or any other types of funds specific to the coronavirus vaccine (such as coinsurances or deductibles), please call our office and let us know.

How is the vaccine being distributed?

Every state has its own vaccine distribution plan, and you can access that information from each state's health department. To find a listing of states and their health departments, their websites and phone numbers, please see the article "What You Don't Know May Make A Difference" on our website at www.PalmettoGBA.com/RR/Me. You can also find a listing on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website at www.CDC.gov.

Where can I find out more about the individual vaccines?

There are two vaccines being used. They are Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine and Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine. Additionally, per the CDC, there are three large-scale (Phase 3) clinical trials in progress or being planned for three COVID-19 vaccines:

AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine

Janssen's COVID-19 vaccine

Novavax's COVID-19 vaccine

As each vaccine is approved and authorized, the CDC publishes information on who should or should not receive that particular vaccine based on health profiles. Additionally, the CDC will publish information to include the vaccine's ingredients, its safety, and its effectiveness. This information is located on the CDC website at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines.html.

Can I get my shot sooner if I pay for that?

The vaccine is available based on each state's distribution program. If someone contacts you and tells you that you can pay to either have your name put on a list to receive the vaccine (when you were not on the list yet to receive the shot) or tells you that you can pay to receive the vaccine sooner than you are scheduled for, do not believe them. These "opportunities" do not exist. And as always, do not share your personal and financial information with people who call, text or email you with any offer like

this. Keep your private information private. The government will never call you and ask you for money.

If you have a question about Medicare's coverage of the coronavirus vaccine, please 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 encourage you to visit our website at www.PalmettoGBA.com/RR/Me, as well as enrolling to use our free self-service internet portal, MyRRMed. MyRRMed offers you access to our healthcare data. At this time, you can use the portal to access:

- Status and details of your Railroad Medicare Part B claims
- Historical Medicare Summary Notices (MSNs) for your Railroad Medicare Part B claims
- A listing of individuals you have authorized to have access to your private health information.
- You can also submit a request to add an authorized representative or to edit or remove an existing authorized representative.

To sign up for MyRRMed, please visit the site at www.PalmettoGBA.com/MyRRMed.

— Jennifer Johnson, Palmetto, GBA