

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS



ESTABLISHED 1968

MEMBER OF PUBLIC SERVICE PENSIONERS COUNCIL
AGE CONCERN FORUM
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF AGEING
NATIONAL PENSIONERS CONVENTION

Registered under the Data Protection Act 1998.

www.wmnarf.net

JOHN LITTLETON CHAIRPERSON
N.A.R.F
WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH
ERDINGTON FIRE STATION
ORPHANAGE ROAD
ERDINGTON
BIRMINGHAM
B24 9HR

TEL: 0121 380 6059

E-MAIL:

retired.firefighters@wmfs.net

August 2021

Welcome to our latest newsletter

Chairman's Comments

I hope that by the time you receive this letter we will be some way out of the pandemic and with luck on our way back to some sort of normality

During the pandemic the Association has carried on working to make sure that members of NARF are not left in limbo, the West Midlands, National and District Committees have carried on holding meetings by 'Zoom' and I know that some Boroughs have also held 'Zoom' meetings provided by No4 District, it is now hoped that, in the not too distant future, face to face meetings will be able to be held.

During last year we have had a number of retired members pass away and due to the pandemic, it has been impossible to attend funerals and it is hoped that in the near future we will be able to hold a memorial service for them all.

Remember that NARF is here to help you so if you know anyone who is not a member get them to go to www.wmnarf.net and at the top of the page, go to update membership and fill in the form.

You will find in with this newsletter tickets for the Annual Prize Draw which raises monies for the widows of ex members Christmas box, please take part if you want to but there is no obligation

Thanks must also go to the various committee members who have kept going through the year, in difficult circumstances, especially Dave Brookes in the Erdington Office.

John Littleton

Chair W.M Branch.

Stop Press :- Congratulations go to J.L for his recent election to the National Vice President post. John will start his new post in October & is just reward for all the hard work he does for the Association both at West Midlands & national level.

Praise For WMFS Covid Response

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary & F & R Services praised the WMFS for their Covid response in September's 2020 inspection.

Chair Greg Brackenridge said 'The fire service is use to stepping up to situations but I was blown away by the resilience, commitment & dedication shown by staff throughout 2020 and which continues today'

CFO Ken Loach said 'Against the covid backdrop I am intensely proud of how our staff have been ready, able and willing to support communities and vulnerable residents throughout, whilst continuing to deliver our core activities. Staff embraced technology to work from home or Fire Stations and over 7,000 food and medical parcels have been delivered to vulnerable residents. The findings of the HMIC&FRS report pay testimony to the hard work of colleagues throughout the Service.

Prize Draw 2020.

Last year's prize draw, which we managed to get out between lockdowns, was held in October and the results were as follows :-

1 st	£500	Mr K. Stanton	Sutton Coldfield
2 nd	£200	Mr N. Willetts	Brierley Hill
3 rd	£100	Mr M. Crowe	Walsall
4 th	£50	Mrs. G. McConville	Coventry
5 th	£25	Mrs. J. Blakemore	Aldridge
6 th	£25	Mrs. A. Davis	Cannock
7 th	£25	Mr V Massey	Bridgewater
8 th	£25	Mr G. Stone	Cannock
9 th	£25	Mrs. J. Bemand	Nottingham
10 th	£25	Mr R. Williams	Cannock
11 th	£25	Mr G. Humphrey	Solihull
12 th	£25	Mrs. S. Henderson	Fareham
13 th	£25	Mrs. H McCarney	Coventry
14 th	£25	Mrs. M Drew	Birmingham

Winners were contacted by phone and the results were place on the NARF website www.wmnarf.net and e-mailed to everyone we had e-mail addresses for

Thank you for taking part.

Prize Draw 2021.

Please find enclosed with this letter two books of draw tickets for this year's Annual Draw. There is absolutely no obligation to take part. Monies raised goes towards a Christmas gift for ex members widows.

The draw will take place on 1st October 2021 at the Office of NARF at Erdington Fire Station at 1200 hrs.

1st Prize £500 2nd Prize £200 3rd Prize £100 4th Prize £50 10 Prizes of £25

We hope you will take part but there is no obligation either to take part or take the two books. Tickets are £1 each (1 book £5, 2 books £10) Single tickets allowed.

There is no need to return unwanted tickets.

Please make cheques out to 'WMFS Pensioners Association'

Put your name & address on the stub (small part) of the ticket & return them to us in the envelope provided, remembering to put a stamp on it. Keep the main part of the ticket (large part) for you.

Should you wish to pay directly into our account please do so but **let us know**. Our a/c is Lloyds 34058668 Sort Code 77 85 14

Further tickets are available from Ian Forrester 0121 451 2086 or e-mail valandian@hotmail.co.uk

Thank You & Good Luck !

Whats On

The Firefighters Memorial Day (4th May) was marked by a smaller event than usual at the Saint Pauls memorial. Colin Livett, Chair of the Trust, laid a floral tribute followed by representatives of the National FBU. London Fire Brigade reps then laid white roses.

The Brigade Carol Service will be held on 12th December 2021 at St. Martins Church, Bull Ring, Birmingham at 4pm.

West Midlands NARF new 'Colours' will be blessed during the service.

The next issue of the NARF News is due 1st September

The Brigade band will be taking part in the Remembrance Day Service at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on 14th November 2021

The Brigade has a new Urban Rescue, Search & Rescue dog called 'Luna' The one year old is a Belgian Malinois who will now undertake 12-18 months training. She will replace 'Cara' who is six and joined in 2015. Cara was the first Malinois breed dog in the country to qualify as a USAR dog as usually they are Collies, Springer Spaniels, Cocker Spaniels, & Black Labradors. Cara is one of 18 dogs available in the National USAR team. FF Mick Attwood based at Bickenhill is looking after both at the moment in Lichfield.

Branch News.

The West Midlands Branch AGM was held on 19 January 2021 via 'Zoom' There being no new members offering to stand the Officers remain the same :-

John Littleton Chair Ken Clarkson Secretary & John Brown Treasurer Lynn Bow resigned as Minute Secretary. Thanks All.

John Brown has also been elected as Treasurer to No.4 District along with John Bristow as Secretary.

Wolverhampton and Walsall plan to hold their Christmas Dinner on November 26th at the 'Pavilion' Stafford Road, Wolverhampton.

Station News

Aston Fire Station is up and running after its refurbishment although the opening of the museum has been delayed by Covid.

The Brigade have plans to turn Sutton Fire Station into an Urban Rescue station with all personnel there being qualified in their specialist equipment, which will also be stored there.

Deaths

Since the last newsletter there have been a large number of deaths of both members and widows. Not all have been Covid related but there are too many to list here. The names however have been placed onto the West Midlands NARF website at www.wmnarf.net.

More4Members

The Social & Welfare Section have announced the closure of the 'More4Members' discount site on 20th November 2021 so use up any outstanding balances before then. It is hoped another site can be found shortly.

Useful Phone Numbers

NARF Office Flat 8 Erdington Fire Station. 0121 380 6058 or 6059
(retired.firefighters@wmfs.net)

Pensions Office 0121 380 6932 or 6933