

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS



ESTABLISHED 1968

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

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Dear All,

Welcome to the latest edition of the newsletter.

Chairman's Report

May I just say that as Chairman I urge all members to keep up to date with the Governments information regarding Coronavirus. Advice is likely to change as things go on so keep abreast of details via the various forms of media and remember that older people are the one's most at risk.

Because of the virus the Erdington Office has been closed although e-mails are being dealt with remotely. Many Borough and Branch meetings have been postponed and the Branch and National AGM's have been cancelled. The situation will be monitored and information put on the website as and when we know it.

Subscription Increase.

The National Council at their October 2019 meeting agreed to raise the national subscription for NARF to £12 from its current £9. This will take effect from 1st January 2021. Although this increase appears to be above inflation it will be the first increase in National Subscriptions for approximately 15 years. Over that time the association's costs have increased and the publication and postage of the NARF News has increased. Postage went up again on 23rd March 2020. The West Midlands Committee hope members agree this still is good value for the work undertaken at National, District, Branch and Borough levels.

In order to allow the Pensions and Payroll department to arrange deduction from your pension a new mandate will be required and is enclosed with this newsletter. Please sign it and return it to the **NARF, Erdington Office, Erdington Fire Station, Ophanage Road, Erdington, Birmingham.**

If you currently pay cash or cheque you will receive a letter at the appropriate time.

Information Sheets

Sometime ago it was suggested to us that we produce an information sheet that spouses or next of kin could fill in so that in the unfortunate occurrence of death all the necessary information required by the surviving spouse or next of kin would be noted down making things

slightly easier. This has now been done and a copy is enclosed. We suggest it is filled in and kept in a safe place and updated as necessary.

Prize Draw 2020

It's that time of year again where we ask your indulgence to take part in our Prize Draw. Monies raise from this draw go towards a Christmas gift for widows of ex NARF members. Prizes are the same as previous years but this year we have include two books of tickets. This is to try to raise a little more this year as our 'cushion' of monies to cover our costs is now gone. We hope you will take part but there is no obligation either to take part at all or take the two books. There is no need to return unwanted tickets. Full details of how to take part are on the last page of this newsletter.

John Littleton. Chair

Firefighter's Memorial Trust

The Firefighter's Memorial Trust have announced that this year's Thanksgiving Service will Return to the National Memorial Arboretum, Arlwas after two years in London. No date has yet been set and because of coronavirus it might be cancelled so keep in touch by logging onto their website.

The Service or Remembrance is due to take place on 6th September 2020 at Holy Sepulchre Church (New name), Holborn Viaduct, London, EC1A 2DQ but again might be postponed or cancelled so look at the website.

Blue Light Card

Members of the Sports & Welfare Section will already know about the 'More For Members' scheme which offers members discounted shopping at various companies but we have now heard about the 'Blue Light Card' which also offers online discount vouchers for retired firefighters. For £4.99 for two years membership you can also get a 'High Street Card' which can be used for discounted products at many well known outlets. You need to register to get the vouchers and if you ask for the card you need to prove you were a member of the Fire Service by providing I.D.

Aston Fire Station Update.

The operational personnel have now moved into their 'new' facilities next door to the original station, but still using the 'old' engine house.

Work is now progressing on the refurbishment of the original station areas with walls having been knocked down and space made ready for the Heritage Museum and Aston Library.

Deaths

Unfortunately, there have been a number of deaths since our last newsletter.

Gentlemen

Arthur Mayle	WMFS	FM D7 Tipton
Robert Chater	WMFS	FM B5 Foleshill
Brian Mann	BFAS & WMFS	ADO Operations HQ
Robert Challis	NFS, Walsall FB	Sub O Walsall
Alun Evans	BFAS & WMFS	StnO C2 Harborne
Peter McCreesh	WMFS	Sub O C9 Hay Mills
Leslie Hipkiss	Smethwick FB, Warley FB & WMFS	StnO Oldbury
John Suggett	WMFS	FM Foleshill
Fredrick 'Dave' Rose	BFAS & WMFS	FM A1 Central Red
Michael Foy	WMFS	FM Erdington & Perry Barr
John Perry	BFAS & WMFS	FM Sheldon
Leslie Larnder	Wolverhampton FB & WMFS	DCFO Wolv FB & Div Comm WMFS

Ladies

Birmingham Borough NARF wish to mark the passing of Christine Ann Jefferies, a great 'friend' of the Borough. Christine was married to Jeff 'Judge' Jefferies and as Catering Manager at the Hollyfield Sports & Social Club hosted the Boroughs Christmas Dinners for many years, always looking after us. Thank You Chris.

Our thoughts are with the families and friends at this sad time.

NARF Remembrance Badge

NARF have commissioned a new Remembrance Badge to mark the 75th anniversary of the end of the second world war. The badge is 3.5 cm and is secured by a double pin and butterfly clips. The badges are £7, which includes postage and a donation from each sale will be made to the Royal British Legion. Details are in the latest NARF News or contact Peter Buckland on 07768782017.

Prize Draw 2020

We are again seeking your support for the annual prize draw.

Please find enclosed two books of tickets. Tickets are £1 so a book is £5 and if you have the two books it would be £10. Single tickets can be bought.

Please do your best either to sell them or buy them yourself.

There is absolutely no obligation to buy these tickets and if you do not wish to take part there is no need to return the unused tickets.

Assurance is given that, in connection with the draw, our expenses are confined to obtaining the licence, printing the tickets, buying the envelopes and providing the prizes. This enables virtually all the money raised to be used for the benefit of our NARF Widows.

1st Prize £500

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

Please make cheques out to **'WMFS Pensioners Association'**.

Put name and address or phone number 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 bit) for your records.

Should you required more tickets please contact the Draw Promoter Ian Forrester on 0121 451 2086 or e-mail valandian@hotmail.co.uk

The draw will take place at FSHQ on 10th June at 1200 hrs Coronavirus permitting.

THANK YOU AND GOOD LUCK !

