

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS



ESTABLISHED 1968
GOLDEN JUBILEE
YEAR
2018

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

Registered under the Data Protection Act 1998.

www.narfire.org.uk

JOHN LITTLETON CHAIRPERSON
WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH
ERDINGTON FIRE STATION
ORPHANAGE ROAD
ERDINGTON
BIRMINGHAM
B24 9HR

TEL: 0121 380 6059

E-MAIL :
retired.firefighters@wmfs.net

November 2018

Welcome to our members & those new members who have committed to joining us following our talks at pre-retirement courses. This is our Winter newsletter.

Chairman's Comments.

I hope this finds everybody in good health.

This is the last newsletter before Christmas and I would like to thank you all for being a member of this association.

Special thanks must go to all the members that take up posts and keep the association running whether a Borough or Branch level.

Thanks to Tom Hartley, Dave Brookes & Jim Chen at the office at Erdington for all their hard work in helping sort out the database and move it on to a new system to comply with the new General Data Protection Regulations (more later) that came into force this year which, hopefully, will make things a lot easier in the future.

Thanks to for Ian Forrester the newsletter editor and Draw Promoter for our annual raffle.

In finishing I would like on behalf of National Council, No.4 District and the West Midlands Branch to wish you all a Merry Christmas and happy new year.

John Littleton.

GDPR Regulations.

You may be aware that In May this year new regulations came into force regarding those organisations who hold databases for any reason.

The object of these new regulations is to protect the privacy of those people who's details we hold.

NARF are committed to protecting your privacy & keeping you informed of how your information is used.

The NARF Office at Erdington holds both computer and card databases for the use of identifying members and keeping in touch with them via newsletters & magazines etc. The computer databases are password protected and only a few people who update the database know what they are.

The only other people we occasionally share some individual information with is the West Midlands Fire Service Pensions Department in order to confirm addresses. NARF will not share your information with anyone else. Any information passed to the Pensions Department will be via an encrypted message that only they can open.

The card database is secured away in a locked cabinet, in a locked office, in a locked flat within a secure Fire Station. Access to this database is only by Committee Members.

Should any member wish us to remove their details from the database, as within their rights, we will do so but this will mean that newsletters, Christmas cards & magazines will stop being delivered and that we will not have any contact details for you.

Any member wishing to be removed from our database will need to contact the National & Branch Office of NARF at Erdington Fire Station, the details of which are at the top of this letter.

Details of our procedures regarding GDPR are held in a folder within the office as per the regulations.

NARF have included changes to address these regulations such as transparency, explaining your rights and other information to enable fair processing of your information.

Prize Draw.

A big 'thank you' again to all members who took part in the Annual Draw. Monies raised from this draw goes towards a Christmas gift for widows of ex-members. This shows that NARF have not forgotten them and that they are still part of 'the family'.

This year's draw took place at Safeside, Fire Service Headquarters on Thursday 31st May 2018, by Ms Justine Eustace of Corpoptate Relations.

The results were as follows :-

First Prize	£500	Mr. J. Kelly	London
Second Prize	£200	Mr. A. Adcock	Coventry
Third Prize	£100	Mr. J. Jefferies	Birmingham
Fourth Prize	£50	Mr. L. Larnder	Suffolk
Fifth Prize	£25	Ms. L. Morris	Wolverhampton
Sixth Prize	£25	Mr. D. Mullinex	Birmingham

Seventh Prize	£25	Mr. H. Oram	Wolverhampton
Eighth Prize	£25	Mr. D Brookes	Birmingham
Ninth Prize	£25	Ms. C. Smith	Dudley
Tenth Prize	£25	Mr. P. Smith	Sutton
Eleventh Prize	£25	Mr. G. Yendell	Worcester
Tweveth Prize	£25	Mr. J. Richie	Coventry
Thirteenth Prize	£25	Mrs. J. George	Norfolk
Fourteen Prize	£25	Mrs. K. Johnson	Birmingham.

Station Updates.

Work at the new Coventry fire station has gone on apace since last March and the Brigade hope for completion before Christmas and to be in and operational by the New Year.

The new station has offices, changing rooms, gym, kitchen and dining room, Community Rooms and a reception. The concrete base has recently been laid for the new training facility. The operational crews have been operating from the old ambulance station in Foleshill Road for the duration of the work.

Work has also started on the refurbishment of Aston Fire Station. The block of flats to the rear of the station, which once housed firemen and their families, has been demolished and work on building a new modern complex to the side of the original station has started. The original station is to be refurbished keeping it's original features, some of which are listed.

Owing to the proximity of the proposed HS2 train line crossing the rear of the Headquarters Building in Nechells it has been decided to move the existing Fire Control Room from the rear of the Safeside Building to the main Headquarters building. This is obviously major work and will take sometime although work has started and is progressing well.

Bows & Bell's Charity Dinner.

The Bows & Bell's Charity Dinner, held in memory of NARF National Membership Secretary & Birmingham Borough Chairman, Graham Bow MBE, was held at the Dorchester Suite, Ramada Hotel, on Saturday 6th October 2018. During the event tributes were made not only to Graham Bow but also Sue Mills who was one of the original members of the organizing committee for the event. Sue looked after the raffle, amongst other things, and always showed great enthusiasm for the cause which reflected in the amount of work she did for it. Sadly Sue passed away earlier this year and all those present supported a minutes applause in her a Graham's memory. Money raised at the event goes to the Firefighters Charity and following party games, an excellent raffle and donations, a grand sum of £4,500 was raised. Bringing the total amount raised since the event started five years ago to a brilliant £25,000 !

Whilst talking about the Firefighter's Charity we are pleased to announce that Stewart Knott once of 'A' Division has been selected to run for the charity in next year's Virgin London Marathon. Stewart is 65 and has his two sons in the job. In order to do this Stewart must raise a certain amount of sponsorship money for the cause so if you feel you could sponsor Stewart for whatever amount please visit his just giving site. www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stewart-knott

What's On

City Of Birmingham

Chair Ian Forrester 0121 451 2086
Secretary Tom Hartley 0121 486 1987

Committee Meetings to be held at Erdington Office at 1100 hrs on 15/5/19, 10/7/19, 11/9/19 & 6/11/19

2019 AGM Before annual reunion at Northfield British Legion on 18/5/2019 at 1400 hrs. (To be confirmed)

City Of Coventry & Solihull

Chair Ken Winters 20476 474086
Secretary Fred Tunstall 02476 222935

Committee Meetings 7/2/2019 (incl. AGM), 2/5/2019, 1/8/2019 & 7/11/2019

Christmas Dinner 21st December 2019 at Broad Street Rugby Club, Rugby Road, Binley Woods, Coventry. Contact Fred Tunstall or John Sandham for details.

City Of Wolverhampton & Walsall

Chair John Littleton 01902 620649
Secretary Gordon Sambrook

Committee Meetings held Jubilee Centre, Fallings Park Fire Station, Bushbury Road, Wolv. in January, June & October at 1930 hrs.

2019 AGM 30/1/19 at Fallings Park at 1930 hrs.

Dudley & Sandwell

Chair Jack Kernohan 0121 520 0408
Secretary Steve Gray 0121 559 8124

AGM followed by Committee Meeting 5/2/19 1930 hrs at Community Room, Stourbridge

Then Committee Meetings 11/6/19 Haden Cross, 15/10/19 Dudley & 4/2/20 Stourbridge all at 1930 hrs

Other Meetings.

The West Midlands Branch AGM will be held at Sutton Coldfield Fire Station on Wednesday 20/3/2019 at 1300 hrs. Please try to attend to support your Committee.

West Midlands Branch is in Region 4 Nationally & their AGM is at Sutton Coldfield Fire Station on 13/4/2019 at 1015 hrs.

The National AGM will be held on 6/4/2019 in Durham at 1030 hrs.

Sports & Welfare Grant(s) To NARF

The WMFS Sports & Welfare Committee will make funding available for grant(s) applications received from NARF, with an indicative sum of £1000 being available per financial year. The grant applications will only be considered for Sports, Social & Welfare activities based on a Branch wide basis; i.e. it must be a Borough sponsored event and that the monies provided are for the benefit of members of the Sports & Welfare Fund; which a significant number of NARF members are.

Boroughs wishing to apply should do so through their Borough Treasurer detailing event, date, location, and total cost and the number of NARF members attending.

On receipt the Branch Treasurer, in liaison with Paul Julian (Branch representative on the Sport & Welfare Committee), will submit an 'enbloc request to the Sports & Welfare Committee for consideration. Boroughs will be advised once a decision has been made.

Fred Olsen Cruise Offer

Our Chair, John Littleton, recently attended a presentation by Fred Olsen Cruise Lines and is pleased to announce several offers that have been made to NARF members. This includes a 10% members discount for first 'sailors' with them. Family members may also be eligible for discount too !

Carol Concert

This year's Carol Concert will take place at St. Martins Church, Edgbaston Street, Birmingham.B5 5BB at 4pm on Sunday 9th December 2018. All welcome.

Deaths

Unfortunately, we have to report the following deaths of ex-members and widows since our last newsletter.

Gentlemen

Ken Ashley	Coventry FB & WMFS	StnO 'B' Div CRO
Charles Newby	BFAS & WMFS	Div Commander 'A' Divison
Peter Longden	BFAS & WMFS	SubO 'C' Div FP.
Dennis Yates	Walsall FB & WMFS	FM E3 Willenhall
Colin Newey	BFAS & WMFS	FM A5 Perry Barr
John Malin	BFAS & WMFS	Lfm Northfield
Peter Dagger	BFAS & WMFS	D.O 'C' Div HQ
Barry Gittings	BFAS & WMFS	StnO Bournbrook
Geoffrey Arnold	Lancs FB, BFAS & WMFS	Stn 5
Stephen Caudwell	WMFS	StnO A4 Erdington
Ian Hutchinson	BFAS & WMFS	FM B2 Sheldon
Peter Lodge	WMFS	FM Halesowen

Dennis Yates	Walsall FB & WMFS	FM E3 Willenhall
Eric Turrell	Coventry FB & WMFS	FM B5 Foleshill
John O'Conner	London, Staffs, Wolv FB & WMFS	SubO E5 Wolverhampton
Ray Atkins	WMFS	D9 Dudley & Stn 11
John Minton	AFS, Walsall & WMFS	StnO AFS
John Powell	BFAS & WMFS	StnO 'C' Div FP Harborne
Barry Rushton	Staffs FB & WMFS	StnO Tettenhall & Bloxwich

A letter has recently been received at the NARF Office from Mrs. K.R. Minton thanking NARF for the ceremonial helmet and shroud used at the funeral & cremation. She also thanked the many retired firefighters who attended both services and gave John a 'Guard Of Honour' at the Church and a sentinel at the crematorium. The family were also pleased that a serving officer attended.

Ladies

Lilley Hopkins June Maine Betty Rowe Pat Robinson

The Committee extend their sympathy to all the families and friends concerned.

.....

Websites

More information on what's happening in the West Midlands Branch is available on our website on :- www.wmnarf.co.uk

The NARF national website is available on :- www.narffire.org.uk

Pension Payday Dates 2019.

Pensions are usually paid on the 1st of the month but with a few exceptions this year.

These are :- 3rd Dec 2018, 2nd Jan 2019, 3rd June 2019 & 2nd Sept 2019.

Change of Address

Please remember to inform both NARF and the Pensions Department at Headquarters if you change address. To inform Pensions just ring 0121 380 6933 or e-mail them on

pensions@wmfs.net

The Committee of the West Midlands Branch of NARF along with all the Borough Committees wish you the season's greetings for Christmas & the New Year !

This newsletter has been collated by Ian Forrester Chair of Birmingham Borough & West Midlands Committee member.