

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

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www.narfire.org.uk

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November 2019

Dear All,

Welcome to the latest NARF Newsletter.

Chairman's Comments.

I hope this newsletter finds everyone in good health and that if you went away this Summer you had a good holiday.

As this year comes to an end your local Association has been very busy throughout with a number of things.

The website has been moved to a new server, that makes it more secure, and it has also been given a new name www.wmnarf.net. There have been a number of new pages added and the minutes of all the Boroughs have been pass-warded and so to get into them you need to be a member of NARF and use your member number. This is found on the address label of your NARF News or on your membership card.

Two other pages have been added, one on Pensions (West Midlands) and one on the Firefighter's Charity (West Midlands).

Thanks go to Ian Forrester and his wife Valerie for organizing the Annual Draw and to all the team at the Erdington Office for keeping it going.

Thanks must also go to the West Midlands and Borough Committees for keeping the Association running and giving up their free time.

In finishing I would like, on behalf of the National Committee, No.4 District and the West Midlands Committee to wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and thank you for your support.

John Littleton.

Firefighters Charity

As you know the National Association Of Retired Firefighters works closely with the Firefighters Charity. The Charity are keen to reach retired members to make sure that they know that they are eligible for the charities services. They have therefore asked that we include in this newsletter a returnable note to keep their records up to date and tell them how you would like to be informed of their services.

Don't worry they are not asking for donations or money of any kind but just an update of

information to keep in touch.

Please fill in the form and return it in the envelope provided, but as usual there is no obligation to do so, it is entirely up to you.

Pension Increase

The annual pension increase this year will be 3.9% for Age Related Pension and 1.7% for Public Services Pensions. These figures are based on the CPI in September each year.

Prize Draw 2019

Thank you again to all those who took part in the annual prize draw.

The draw took place during the Reunion & AGM of the Birmingham Borough at Longbridge Social Club on 17th May 2019.

The results were as follows :-

1 st Prize	£500	Mr. Harry Black	Birmingham
2 nd	£200	Mr. Dave Beresford	Bridgenorth
3 rd	£100	Ms. Jane Hadley	Walsall
4 th	£50	Mr. Martyn Peters	Stourbridge
5 th	£25	Mr. Brian Durose	Hampshire
6 th	£25	Mrs. S. Henderson	Portsmouth
7 th	£25	Mrs. S. Campbell	Birmingham
8 th	£25	Ms. Ann Price	Norfolk
9 th	£25	Mr. Rodger Wills	Redditch
10 th	£25	Mr. Dell Wilford	Birmingham
11 th	£25	Ms. Fay Myddleton	Telford
12 th	£25	Mr. Dave Sizer	Birmingham
13 th	£25	Mr. Les Ginns	Cradley Heath
14 th	£25	Mrs. Pat Brown	Coventry

Monies raised goes towards a Christmas Gift for the widows of retired ex-members.

Bows & Bell's Ball

The Bows & Bell's Ball was again held at the Ramarda Hotel, Penns Lane, Sutton Coldfield on Saturday 12th October and although numbers were down on last year the sum of £ 5,000 was raised for the Charity in the name of Graham Bow who was a great supporter of it.

Whats On

Birmingham Borough

Committee Meetings on 11/3 8/7 9/9 & 4/11 Erdington Office 1100 hrs.

AGM & Reunion 15/5 Venue to be confirmed.

Thank you to all our 'parcel' deliverers & to Dave Brookes who has taken on the Secretary role.

2019 Parcel deliverers can collect parcels from Office 2/12 3/12 4/12 1100 – 1500 hrs.

Coventry & Solihull

Christmas Dinner 20/12/2019 Broad Street, Rugby.

Committee Meetings First Thursday of Feb, May, Aug & Nov at Binley F.S at 2000 hrs.

City Of Wolverhampton & Walsall

Committee Meeting & AGM 29/1/2020 held at Jubilee Centre, Fallings Park Fire Station, Bushbury Way, Wolv. 1930 hrs. Other Committee Mtgs 20/5, 29/7, 28/10. Christmas Dinner 27/11/2020.

Dudley & Sandwell

Committee Meeting & AGM 4/2/2020 1930 at Stourbridge Fire Station.

West Midlands AGM

The AGM of the West Midlands Branch of NARF will be on 22/3/2020 at 1330 hrs at Sutton Coldfield Fire Station with a Committee Meeting beforehand at 1230.

Brigade Carol Service

The Brigade Carol concert will again be held at St. Martin's Church, Bull Ring, B'ham on Sunday 8th December 2019 at 1600 hrs. John Littleton, our Chair, will be doing a reading and music will be provided by the Brigade band. Light refreshments will be available.

Aston Update.

The operational staff at Aston Fire Station are awaiting the completion of a 'snagging list' before moving into their new facilities alongside the original station. At present they are still using the old station including the engine house as it is listed and cannot be altered. It is hoped they will be in by Christmas.

The rest of the original station is under going refurbishment and will eventually house the Aston Library and the Heritage Group Museum. The completion date for this work is early in the new year

Future Newsletters

The cost of postage is becoming a problem for the newsletter so the Committee are looking into the possibility of sending the newsletter out to some members as a digital copy. In order to do this we would have to ensure that the e-mail addresses we hold for members is up to date, so please remember to advise the Office at Erdington if you change yours. It is hoped that members without computers will still receive a newsletter by post. This will not happen soon as the Committee have to overcome some issues first and find out who would want one and who would not. We will keep you informed of our progress.

National NARF News

Plans are afoot at National level to bring back the Service Of Thanksgiving to the National Memorial Arboretum after holding it in London last year. Look out for details.

The NARF News magazine is published four times a year and at one point over two hundred of them were returned as wrong address. Following a lot of work by the National Membership Secretary (John Littleton) this has now been reduced to 21 after the last issue, so please remember to advise us of any change of address. The next issue will be in early December and will contain only six adverts.

The Public Services Pension Council, of which NARF was a founder member, have all joined forces to lobby the BBC & Parliament to try and cancel the proposed removal of the free TV license for over eighties. Members are urged to sign any partitions and write to their MP's in our support.

National NARF membership is now 7,155 with the West Midlands Branch still by far the largest in the country with 1,516.

Friendship Club

About twenty years ago, when the Welfare Dept in the Brigade stopped doing annual holidays, Janet Matthews (Welfare Officer) and Dorothy Downes (a widow) decided to form this club. Over the years membership has declined and they need new members to keep it going. They hold four meetings a year at Safeside at HQ with a free buffet at two of them. They have club holidays of 2 – 5 days, plus theatre trips and day trips. Sometimes they meet in town for a visit to somewhere local in the West Midlands.

Currently their members are mainly widows & their friends and they would love to see anyone who has worked in any part of the Fire Service.

Their first meeting in 2020 is on Thursday 20th February at 1200 hrs. Why not go along to see what it's like.

Further information can be supplied by ringing Barbara Starks (Chair) on 0121 742 8453.

Deaths

Unfortunately, there have been a number of deaths of ex members & widows since our last newsletter.

Gentlemen

John Agar	BFAS / WMFS	Divisonal Officer 'E' Div & Staff Officer HQ
Stanley Field	Wolv FB / WMFS	Sub O 'D' Div F.P
Kenneth Divorak	WMFS	FM Dudley & Sandwell
John Ward	BFAS / WMFS	Stn O C6W Northfield
George Merrell	BFAS / WMFS	Chief Fire Officer Of Both Brigades
Derek Weston	BFAS / W. Sussex / WMFS	Sub O Trg School & Perry Barr
David Everall	MOD / WMFS	FM E6 Fallings Park
Paul Eaves	WMFS	Sub O A2 Aston & HQ 'A' Div FP
Stanley Temple	WMFS	FM Foleshill
Edwin Thornton	Cov FB / WMFS	Divisonal Officer 'B' Div
Carl Rylatt	WMFS	Watch Commander 'C' Div
Mel Kinsey	BFAS/WMFS	Bournbrook Red

Widows

Mrs Iris Hurved

Mrs. Joan Taylor

Mrs. Ivy Apperley

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