



San Fernando Valley Chapter 61

Erwin L Nudel, Editor-in-Chief e-mail: monkeys22@prodigy.net (818) 468-6425

Regular meetings are the first Wednesday of each month except June, July, and August

February 2025 Meeting, Wednesday, February 5, 2025

Meeting Location: Lulu's Restaurant

16900 Roscoe Blvd. Van Nuys, CA 91406

Please arrive at 11:30 am

Executive Board meeting at 10:30 am prior to the regular meeting.

President's report by Charles Feistman

Hello to all my fellow NARE chapter 61 Members.

Hope that you are all staying safe in these difficult times of the several fire disasters that we are experiencing. If anyone is experiencing difficulties or needs assistance please let us know and we may be able to assist you in reaching the appropriate area for assistance.

House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Jason Smith, R-Mo., demanded Friday that the Social Security Administration deliver "clear guidance" on how it will deliver "immediate relief" now that the Social Security Fairness Act is law. "With a full repeal of Social Security's Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) now signed into law, the Social Security Administration (SSA) must provide Congress and the public with clear guidance on how it will deliver immediate relief to those who have been impacted by the flawed WEP and GPO," Smith along with Social Security Subcommittee Chairman Ron Estes, R-Kansas, told SSA Acting Commissioner Carolyn Colvin in a [letter](#). The lawmakers requested feedback from SSA by Jan. 17 on how it plans to implement the Social Security Fairness Act and what, if any, action affected beneficiaries will have to take to ensure that their benefits are properly adjusted and that any additional benefits are paid appropriately.

The IRS Direct File tool is scheduled to open to taxpayers across 25 states at the start of the coming tax season on Jan. 27, a week after President-elect Donald Trump's inauguration. This year, the free IRS tool to file directly with the government online will feature the option for taxpayers to import data the tax agency already has about them from their IRS account into the tool — things like their biographical information, identity protection pin and W-2 form. Still, the long-term future of Direct File is murky.

The IRS [piloted](#) the tool in 12 states last year after decades of relying on private tax prep companies to offer most Americans free options to file their taxes online. That program, called **Free File**, is vastly underused, although the IRS says Direct File is a supplement to Free File, not a replacement.

In terms of what happens next, Trump has [announced](#) that he intends to nominate a former Republican congressman, Billy Long, to lead the tax agency — suggesting that he'd oust current IRS Commissioner Danny Werfel before his term's expiration date in 2027.

Some Republicans have also been [asking](#) Trump to kill the free online service outright, calling it "government overreach." The Trump transition did not immediately respond to a request for comment on their plans for the tool.

Asked how confident he was in Direct File staying online through the full tax season, Werfel told reporters on Friday that, "as we move forward in the future and we want to evaluate any new and emerging changes, we will evaluate those at that time."

“This plan that we have, we’ve been working on closely with our current leadership at the Treasury Department, who have required, in this case, the Direct File tool to be issued, and that is our current plan,” he said.

For now, the tool is set to also include a new chatbot option to help people check their eligibility, which is limited to certain tax situations in addition to certain states. In the states where it is offered that have state income taxes, Direct File helps people file their federal taxes before directing them to a state-side tool to finish their filing.

In terms of the new prefill option, taxpayers that choose to import information will still have to fill out parts of their W-2 form manually. The IRS is calling the new option the “first step” of data import, which it said was the “number one taxpayer-requested feature.”

The IRS is also touting other digital improvements debuting this tax season, including upgrades to the IRS online tool Where’s My Refund. The IRS is also offering new voice Bot services in English and Spanish for people calling the IRS for refund information and has added new features to individual online IRS accounts.

Werfel warned that additional progress is dependent on continued funding for the tax agency. Democrats put about \$80 billion into the tax agency as part of the Inflation Reduction Act in 2022, but that’s since been cut down to about \$60 billion. Another \$20 billion is currently frozen, under the continuing resolution, and IRS funding remains a Republican target.

Erin Collins, the National Taxpayer Advocate, wrote in a recent report to Congress that “the IRS has eliminated the mountain of paper returns and correspondence that piled up during the pandemic” and “made major strides toward improving its taxpayer services and information technology (IT) systems.”

Our next meeting will be Noon, at Lulu’s restaurant on Wednesday February 5, 2025. We will start at noon so be early so you can order lunch.

Executive board will meet at 10:30 am.

Public Relations by David Rittenberg

The source of this article is an article by Olivia R. Williams, chair of the NARFE-Alzheimer’s National Committee in the December 2024 issue of NARFE Magazine.

Each year, the NARFE Alzheimer’s National Committee determines which research projects will be awarded Grants from the NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Fund. Since the NARFE-Alzheimer partnership began in 1985, NARFE has awarded 95 research grants. At the 2024 Virtual NARFE Alzheimer’s National Annual Training meeting in September, the committee awarded two new grants totaling \$311,250 to the following:

Kelly Stauch, Ph.D., University of Nebraska Medical Center was awarded \$200,000 for a study that will examine how genetic variations linked to Alzheimer’s impact the energy centers in brain cell connections.

Matheus Scarpato Rodrigues, Ph.D., University of Pittsburgh was awarded \$111,250 for a study that will look at how the nerve cells in the brain use cholesterol as both a source of energy and how to maintain their cell structures. Studies have shown that cholesterol in cells and its metabolism, the process by which the cholesterol is made and broken or stored, is vital to healthy brain function, which may also play a role in the progression of Alzheimer’s and other dementia.

For further details of these studies, see the December 2024 issue of NARFE Magazine, page 62.

Chapter 61 NARFE Executive Board

President	Charles Feistman	714-309-3785	cfeistman@aol.com
Vice-President	Rebecca D Fiso	818-362-8991	Faso.rebecca@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Erwin L Nudel	818-468-6425	monkeys22@prodigy.net
Secretary	Greg Pericich	310-618-1611	Pericichg@ca.rr.com
Program Chair	Vacant		
Treasurer	Yoggi Riley	818-237-8194	yoggi.narfe@gmail.com
Asst Treasurer	Harry Kane	703-407-2796	Harry.narfe@gmail.com
Service Officer	Yoggi Riley	818-237-8194	yoggi.narfe@gmail.com
Asst Service Officer	Harry Kane	703-407-2796	harry.narfe@gmail.com
Legislative Chair	Charles Feistman	714-309-3785	cfeistmasn@aol.com
Public Relations	David Rittenberg	818-901-8331	daver@dslextreme.com
Sunshine/Alzheimers	Rebeccas D Faso	818-362-8991	Faso.rebecca@gmasil.com
Sg-at-Arms	Erwin L Nudel	818-468-6425	monkeys22@prodigy.net