

## The President's Column by Marcia Swanson

At our May meeting we have several events on the agenda. We will have a representative of CareFirst BCBS at our meeting to present the annual Distinguished Annuitant Award to one of our esteemed members.

We will have the election of our chapter officers. The nominating committee (Mel Hardy, Mildred Cannon, Carole Jacoby) prepared the following slate of officers to be elected: President: Stuart Sklamm; 1<sup>st</sup> VP for Membership: Mildred Cannon; 2<sup>nd</sup> VP for Legislation: vacant; Treasurer: Ed Alexander; Secretary: Marcia Swanson.

We have a few vacancies or potential vacancies. So we are looking for members to fill the following vacancies: 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President for Legislation, Sergeant at Arms to assist with the podium/banner/flag, and Luncheon Chair to coordinate the lunches. We are also looking for a Social Media Coordinator to represent our chapter. MD Federation has a committee working on this topic and would like a representative from each chapter. We have many capable members in our chapter. Each of these positions would only take a few hours a month. If you would like to help your chapter and volunteer for one of these positions, please contact me or any of our officers or nominating committee members (contact information on the back).

For our speaker we've invited someone from MC Senior Health to speak on nutrition. So join us at our May meeting to learn which of our esteemed member is receiving an award, to elect officers and hear an interesting talk on good nutrition for your health.

Our June event will be an outing to Toby's Dinner Theater in Columbia on Wednesday, June 19, 2013 at 10:30 am to see "In the Heights". The price is a discounted rate of \$40 per person which includes \$4 for gratuity, but we need a group of 20 or more to get this rate. Our members have enjoyed previous outings to Toby's in the past, so I hope you will consider going. Please send a check payable to "NARFE Chapter 1888" and mail it to our treasurer, Ed Alexander, 2100 Briggs-Chaney Road, Silver Spring, MD 20905. The final date to sign up with payment is at our May meeting.

Our March meeting at Riderwood was a success in terms of numbers: over 85 members or retired Feds attended! All enjoyed the luncheon provided by Riderwood, and the talk given by Region II VP Evelyn Kirby, who spoke on the benefits of NARFE membership for the member and for NARFE, and recent legislative issues. Afterwards, our executive committee discussed the various options for holding meetings at Riderwood and including Riderwood members at our meetings. Due to cost (cost of luncheon in sales room or cost of shuttle to Liberty Grove), size of available classrooms (too small for our own luncheon and estimated 50 Riderwood members), and lack of parking (can't reserve parking for regular meetings), it appears it would be very difficult to hold meetings there for both Riderwood members and "outside" members of the chapter. The most viable suggestion is that members from Riderwood carpool to our present meeting place. Another option is establishing a "sub-chapter" there, rather than a new chapter. We don't know if we gained any new members, but I met one new attendee from Riderwood at our April meeting! Our 50/50 winner was Ken Putkovich who donated it to the Alzheimers Fund.

At our April meeting we announced 7 delegates to represent our chapter at the MD FED Convention in Ocean City, MD April 29 - May 1, and the members present approved the delegates. Unfortunately, one delegate had to drop out due to other commitments. So we are sending 6 delegates: Mel Hardy, Stu Sklamm, Mildred Cannon, Rufus Cannon, Marcia Swanson, and Wanda Bell.

We heard from Ryan Sober, a member of the Sierra Club, who spoke on energy efficiency in the home. We were given the top ten energy saving tips: 1 - Turn off lights, electronics and use smart power strips; 2 - Use compact fluorescent and other high efficiency light bulbs; 3 - Use a programmable thermostat; 4 - Regularly maintain your heating and air conditioning systems and change your filters; 5 - If you need new appliances, electronic equipment or even windows, try to buy ENERGY STAR products; 6 - Install low-flow showerheads and low-flow aerators for faucets; 7 - Plug air leaks in your home; 8- Check your insulation and improve it if it needs it; 9 - Do an energy audit; 10 - Go to "MyGreenMontgomery.org" for more information and money saving programs! We also received several handouts which gave further suggestions for improving energy efficiency.

Congratulations to our April 50/50 winner Ada Lofton!

### State Legislation Column

The Maryland Legislative Session ended April 8, 2013. The hearing was held for SB 23 and HB 578, the Senate and House bills to change the LTC Credit to an annual \$200 credit, but there was no committee vote. The State Legislative Committee (SLC) is discussing the lack of success in getting desired legislation passed and considering new strategies. NARFE can expect to receive notices of (invitations to) fundraisers which are prohibited while in session. You are encouraged to donate to the MD PAC so that the SLC can send members to the fundraisers to talk to the legislators. Write the check payable to "MD PAC", and mail to Dave Roseman, Treasurer, 6 Thorburn Rd, Gaithersburg, 20878-2621, or give to Marcia Swanson, the MD PAC POC at our next chapter meeting.

### LEGISLATION - Stu Sklamm - VP for Legislation

On April 10, President Obama presented a 10-year budget request that calls for "nearly \$300 billion in new spending on jobs and public works," as reported in the *Washington Post* (April 10, 2013).

The *Washington Post* further reported: "...with sharp automatic spending cuts threatening to slow the economic recovery and another showdown over the federal debt limit looming this year, the blueprint establishes a budget deal with Republicans as Obama's top fiscal priority. For the first time, he is formally proposing to trim scheduled Social Security benefits..." and "...offering to make meaningful reduction in Medicare benefits, including higher premiums for couples making more than \$170,000 a year." Of particular concern to NARFE members is President Obama's proposed change to the formula used to calculate annual cost-of-living adjustments (COLAS) to Federally administered programs.

NARFE President Joseph A. Beaudoin, in the NARFE Legislative Hotline, reports: "The proposal would use the chained CPI method of determining inflation in place of the current CPI-W. Using the chained CPI instead of the CPI-W would reduce COLAS by an estimated 0.3 percent per year and, compounded over time, would add up to a big loss in benefits."

Mr. Beaudoin, also stated: "The median Civil Service Retirement System (CSS) annuitant, with a monthly benefit of \$2,620 would lose \$1,525 during the first five years of lowered inflation protection. The median CSRS survivor annuitant (\$1,230 per month) would lose up to \$716 over the same five years."

Therefore, President Beaudoin urges us to use NARFE's Legislative Action Center to tell both Congress and the President to reject reducing our earned benefits.

President Obama has said that any budget agreement must replace the sequester which took effect on March 1 and also raise revenue from the wealthiest individuals and biggest corporations. The sequester cuts approximately \$900 billion in discretionary programs over the next decade and imposes further spending cuts in the future if Congress fails to enact an additional \$1.2 trillion in deficit reduction measures.

## **LEGISLATION (continued)**

Erskine Bowles and Alan K. Simpson, former chairmen of the Bowles-Simpson deficit-reduction commission, have subsequently presented a revised deficit reduction plan. According to the *Washington Post* (April 19, 2013), it "seeks far less in new taxes than the original proposal and far more in savings from federal health programs for the elderly." Their new plan "would end the sequester," "eliminate the legal cap on government borrowing" by limiting the national debt to a set percentage of the nation's economy, and seek "\$2.5 trillion in new taxes and savings" over the next decade.

## **MEMBERSHIP REPORT - Mildred Cannon - VP for Membership**

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to NARFE Chapter 1888: Kenneth Jones and Joseph Steinbock. We are very happy to welcome back the following members who reinstated their membership: Jerome Cooperman, Thomas Cygnarowicz, Gene Heller, Harold Holmes, Sidney Jones, Donald Lees, Anthony Lipuma, Lois Miller, Robert Rieck, Andrew Rock, Gayle Sunde, and Calvin Troup. We look forward to seeing all of you at our May luncheon meeting and in June at the Luncheon Theater outing.

Sadly, we must note the loss of the following members who have been dropped for non-payment of dues: Donnie Ashley, Edwin Burkhardt, Morton Cohen, James Conley, Beatrice Gaines, Lark Keller, Donna Krinski, Eugenie Lackey, Ruth Landman, Leonard Morton, Richard Mulligan, David Rutledge, Samuel Saunders, Joseph Tahan, Inga Tarr, Desmond Williams. We sincerely hope that these persons will reactivate their membership in the near future and rejoin the Chapter.

Chapter 1888 extends sincere condolences to the families of Carl Anderson, Lucille Beckmeyer, Claude Bennet, Jung Chung, Michael Eisert, H.C. Flemister, Henry Frankel, Thomas Gunshinan, Charles Lum, Attilio Mascone, Calvin Scott, and William Wright who recently passed away.

So that you do not inadvertently allow your membership to lapse because you have either lost or just can't find your renewal notice, please consider signing up for automatic dues withholding. It's painless (about \$3.75 per month) and once you sign up you will never have to worry about having to mail in your dues payments again. "Dues Withholding Forms" are available at the sign-in desk at our Chapter meetings or you can call me and I will mail one to you (301) 593-9249. Remember that **YOU NEED NARFE AND NARFE NEEDS YOU.**

## **HELP NARFE HELP US**

You can help NARFE and NARFE members (us) by doing the following. Attend Chapter meetings and volunteer to help with Chapter 1888 operations. Recruit new members – there is power in numbers – get applications from NARFE Headquarters (703-838-7760) and carry them with you to other meetings and events you attend – church, sports, classes, picnics, dinners, etc. and contact your co-workers who have not retired. Sign up for NARFE Global Electronic Messaging System (GEMS) and contact state and Federal representatives when requested. Contribute to the NARFE and MD Political Action Committees. Participate in the "Heartbeat of America" effort.

## **USEFUL WEB LINKS**

Interested in your retirement benefits – [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org)  
Interested in your credit score at absolutely no cost – [www.creditkarma.com](http://www.creditkarma.com)  
Interested in your local and national weather – [www.weather.gov/forecastmaps](http://www.weather.gov/forecastmaps)  
Interested in understanding and preparing for an emergency – [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)  
Interested in getting free publications on being prepared – [www.ready.gov/publications](http://www.ready.gov/publications)  
Interested in information on pain management – [www.practicalpainmanagement.com](http://www.practicalpainmanagement.com)  
Interested in information on Maryland government and programs – [www.maryland.gov](http://www.maryland.gov)  
Interested in information on Montgomery County – [www.montgomerycountymd.gov](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov)  
Interested in current health information – [www.healthfinder.gov](http://www.healthfinder.gov)  
Interested in the latest government happenings – [www.federalnewsradio.com](http://www.federalnewsradio.com)  
Interested in getting various free government publications – [www.Publications.USA.gov](http://www.Publications.USA.gov)

## **Chapter 1888 White Oak**

President:	Marcia Swanson	301-434-7266
Immediate Past President	Mel Hardy	301-384-8690
Past President:	Barbara Walter	301-598-8882
1st VP/Membership:	Mildred Cannon	301-593-9249
2nd VP/Legislation:	Stuart Sklamm	301-384-0784
Secretary:	Vacant	
Treasurer:	Ed Alexander	301-989-9101
Service Officer:	Vernice Buell	301-384-1773
Newsletter Editors:	Betty & Ken Putkovich	301-879-0152
Program Chair:	Carole Jacoby	301-588-5237
Sunshine/Luncheon Chair:	Jayne MacLean	410-465-7075
POC Maryland PAC	Marcia Swanson	301-434-7266
POC NARFE PAC	Stuart Sklamm	301-384-0784
At Large Members		
	Carolyn Blauvelt	301-593-0521
	Clara Perlingiero	301-622-4028
	Wayne Hopkins	301-439-5395
Officer Emeritus:	Bud Cole	

## **Executive Board**

<a href="mailto:mkswan9013@aol.com">mkswan9013@aol.com</a>
<a href="mailto:mel_hardy@msn.com">mel_hardy@msn.com</a>
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<a href="mailto:PerlingieroClara@aol.com">PerlingieroClara@aol.com</a>

## **Next Chapter Meeting**

**Monday**  
**May 13, 2013**  
**Meeting at 1:00 PM**

**Lunch at 12:15 PM**  
**Best Deal In Town**  
**Lunch – \$3.00**

**Liberty Grove**  
**United Methodist Church**  
**15225 Old Columbia Pike**  
**Burtonsville, MD 20866**

**May 13 – Annuitant of the Year Award From BC/BS, election of Chapter 1888 Officers, and speaker from MC Senior Health on nutrition.**

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**Upcoming Events**

**June 19 – Matinee at Toby's Dinner Theater - "In the Heights"- fresh from Broadway - Winner of 4 Tonys and a Grammy – Broadway tunes, Latin music and hip-hop tell the gripping story of one of Manhattan's most vibrant neighborhoods.**