



**NARFE CHAPTER 2166**  
EASTERN BALTIMORE AREA

**September 2014**

**NARFE NEWS**

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Even though the Chapter authorized me to attend the **National Convention** as a delegate from Chapter 2166, I have decided to forego the convention and have designated Harold Forst of Chapter 1522, who frequently attends our monthly meetings, our proxy vote. **Harold will be attending the September 9, 2014 meeting to brief all in attendance about the convention.**

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Eric Rogers has resigned and past President John Carduner has volunteered to assume the duties of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President. **Thanks to Eric for his past service and thanks to John for assuming the duties of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President!** 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President/Membership Helen Huber has resigned her position. The position is presently vacant. **Thanks to Helen for her past service!**

The mid-term election will be held November 4, 2014 and I urge all members to support NARFE endorsed candidates. More importantly we should all participate in the foundation of our democracy by voting for the candidate of your choice.

Jerry Kerner, President

---

**Chapter Officers**

**President:** Jerry Kerner (410-821-0966)  
**1st VP Programs:** John Carduner (410) 931-3822  
**2nd VP Membership:** Vacant  
**Secretary:** Janice Dykacz (410) 323-2661  
**Treasurer:** Pat Kirby (410) 661-6775  
**Reservations:** Anne O'Connor (410) 882-4893  
**Service Officer:** Harold Forst, Acting  
(410) 661-4625  
**Sunshine:** Ednah Stang (410) 667-1929  
**Transportation Coordinator:**  
Miriam Trotter (410) 256-8449  
**Editor:** Mark Bumbaugh (410) 296-1012  
**Past President:** John Carduner (410) 931-3822

In December 2013, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 changed the sequestration caps for FY2014 and FY2015. **The Budget Act appears to leave present government employee and retiree benefits untouched through FY 15.** However, federal employees who just started in 2014 are paying a greater percent (1.3% more than those hired in 2013) of their salary to FERS without any corresponding increase in their retirement annuity. Since the mid-term elections are coming up in November, Congress has been timid to propose anything that would affect Federal benefits.

However, the need to reduce the national debt still exists. After the elections money saving ideas will be proposed for federal budgets to be made beyond FY 2015. Some of those proposals may try to reduce active and retired federal employee benefits. NARFE will alert us to any such proposals.

**Of interest to our active federal employees are articles in the August NARFE magazine on the proposed 2015 pay raise, and things to take into account when considering buyouts and early outs.** While the president's budget proposal has a 1% pay raise, the House and Senate have separate bills for a 3.3% raise. The NARFE magazine indicates that the active employees should contact their Senator and Congressperson about cosponsoring the bills. The "Legislative Action Center" in the NARFE website ([www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org)) can aid you in sending a letter to your representatives. The article is on Page 7 and is titled "3.3% Pay Hike in Senate Bill".

Voluntary Separation Incentive Payments (VSIPs) are known as buyouts. VSIPs allow an employee to voluntarily leave government and receive an incentive payment of up to \$25,000 for doing so. Voluntary Early Retirement Authorities (VERAs) are known as early outs. VERAs offer eligible employees the opportunity to retire earlier than they would otherwise be eligible.

Some agencies offer VSIPs and VERAs every so often. However, usually employees are given just a short period of time (weeks) to apply and accept the offer. The employee should thoroughly understand the pros and cons of accepting either of these offers. The article identifies things to consider when contemplating the acceptance of either a VSIP or VERA. The article is on Page 20 and is titled "Buyouts & Early Outs".

## LUNCHEON MEETING

Our September meeting will be held on September 9, 2014, at the Golden Corral Restaurant beginning at 11:30 a.m. **Our speaker will be Harold Forst of Chapter 1522 who will brief us on the happening at the NARFE national convention.**

The 33<sup>rd</sup> Biennial National Convention will be held on August 24 - 28 in Orlando, FL. Some important proposals are scheduled to be voted on. The proposals include: reducing the National Officers from four to two, making membership in chapters optional, opening membership to everyone, providing a \$10 youth membership, and endorsing the Future of NARFE concept.

We are trying to locate another speaker as well but have yet to find one.

So come and socialize with your friends and tell us what you did this summer. You mean to tell me that you went parachuting for the first time! I don't believe it. Come and convince me.

**The Golden Corral is located at 7908 Rossville Blvd.** just outside the Beltway. Take exit 32 (Bel Air Road) north toward Bel Air. Turn right at Rossville Blvd. (the second traffic light past the beltway). The restaurant is located about one block from Bel Air Road on the right side of Rossville Blvd. Call 410-665-7405 for further directions.

The \$12.00 cost includes lunch, beverage, tax, and gratuity. If you need to cancel your reservation, please let Anne O'Connor know by September 5 by calling her at 410-882-4893. If you do not send a check but still attend, please bring the check. **NO** money, please!

---

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

There is no secretary's report since our last meeting on June 10, 2013 was a party held at Bertucci's in White Marsh.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance - 4/30/14:	\$3,079.84
Income:	1,324.34
Expenses:	969.62
Balance - 7/31/14:	\$3,454.16

**Pat Kirby, Treasurer**

## SUNSHINE CORNER

If you know anyone in our Chapter who is ill, was injured, or has passed away, please contact **Ednah Stang at (410) 667-1929** so she can send a "get well" or sympathy card.

**GOLDEN CORRAL**

September 9, 2014 **Luncheon Reservation**

The following will attend:

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email Adr. \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my **check payable to:**

**NARFE Chapter 2166**

for \_\_\_\_\_ reservations at \$12.00 each.

Mail to reach us by September 4th to:

Anne O'Connor  
8810 Walther Blvd. Apt. 1402  
Baltimore, MD 21234-5734