

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association Northern Prince George's County Maryland Chapter 1122

*Beltsville, Berwyn Heights, College Park, Cheverly, Glenarden, Glenn Dale,
Greenbelt, Hyattsville, Landover Hills, Lanham, New Carrollton and Seabrook*

Website: www.mdnarfe.org/chapter1122



NARFE is the only association solely dedicated to safeguarding and improving the earned rights and benefits of America's active and retired federal employees. A team of government relations professionals in Washington tracks congressional action and agency proposals that affect your federal retirement benefits. NARFE's Legislative Department works simultaneously to preserve and enhance civil service annuity and health care benefits.

2012 Legislative Program of Maryland NARFE Howard Waterworth, 1st Vice President and Legislative Chair

The Maryland Federation of Chapters represents more than 128,000 federal employees and 145,000 federal annuitants living in Maryland. Maryland's 65+ population is expected to grow from 708,000 to 1.3 million by 2030. The rate of growth for this group is five times the rate of the general population. Thus, there is an urgent need to find new solutions to the challenges posed by an expanding older population in one of the highest cost areas in the nation. Many seniors are struggling to age in place and maintain an acceptable standard of living as their situation is made worse by the impact of the national financial crisis on savings, investments, and home values.

Maryland needs to create an environment that will encourage seniors to stay in Maryland. Seniors pay taxes, which help pay for infrastructure. They generate up to 3 jobs per capita. They donate to community services at almost double the national median for all ages (96 hours vs. 52 hours). Their volunteering in libraries, schools, hospitals, theaters and non-profit venues provides a large unpaid work force, which helps extend city, county and state budgets. Some states openly encourage senior immigration by offering tax incentives.

Maryland NARFE wants to provide tax relief to seniors by closing the unfair income tax gap between certain classes of seniors, by establishing property tax rates that will enable them to age in place, and by providing an annual \$200 deduction for purchase and retention of long term care insurance.

EQUALIZE TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR SENIORS. IN 2007 a law was enacted in MD that allowed taxpayers to claim a special exemption of \$3200 for the care of non-spousal dependents over 65. In contrast, the exemption for elderly taxpayers and their spouses has remained at \$1,000 for over 20 years. The \$2,200 difference costs senior taxpayers about \$175 more in taxes every year, or over \$1600 in additional income since 2000. NARFE's goal is to equalize the two exemptions beginning in 2014 that will allow all seniors to receive the same tax benefits.

LONG TERM CARE: Alzheimer's and other mental and physical conditions requiring institutional care will increase as our population of seniors increases. Most will not have adequate funds to cover cost of care; 66% of residents in Maryland nursing homes are on Medicaid, which is above the national average. So another NARFE goal is to convince the Maryland legislature to

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February 2012

2012 Upcoming Events

- February 7
Maryland Federation Board Meeting
Bowie, MD
- April 30 - May 1
Maryland Mini Convention
Bowie, MD
- August 26-30
National Convention
Reno, NV

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**Newsletters on Line
John Lydon, Newsletter Distributor via Email**

Join your fellow members by receiving your newsletter on line. It typically arrives earlier than the one delivered by mail. This helps our chapter save on postage when you elect to receive the electronic version of the newsletter in pdf format and full color. To receive a monthly notice by e-mail that our Chapter News-

letter is available, send a message to: lydon.j@verizon.net. Please include your full name and address with a request to receive notification that the newsletter is on the web site at: www.mdnarfe.org/chapter1122.



Chapter Membership

Chapter 1122 welcomes the following members who joined in January:

NEW MEMBERS

- Carolyn B. Davis*
- Georgia Z. Freeman*
- Sherrie Hailstorks*
- Edward D. Lyons*
- Vivian D. McKinney*
- Robert Obrycki*
- Frank H. Serene*

REINSTATED MEMBER

Derek B. Stewart

TRANSFERRED MEMBER

Sandra R. Lee

New, reinstated and transferred members please attend the chapter meetings. Join a committee or just come and socialize with your fellow members and enjoy the refreshments that are served.

Chapter Corner



We were delighted to see Marian Eiband wife of our late Chapter President Marty Eiband at the December Luncheon.

We hope to see her at many more functions during the year.

The chapter has lost two members Jim Carey of College Park passed in January. Another member Kenneth L. Baker passed in December at age 92. Ken worked at the Naval Ordnance Laboratory where he headed a group of engineers that developed the

long range missile that can be fired from a submarine.

The Chapter extends our condolences to the family and friends of our deceased members.

The 50/50 winner at the January meeting was Richard Bennof.

Names are still needed for officer positions by the nominating committee. You can Nominate yourself or a fellow member. Call Bob Haas 301-937-7987 or email him at:

happyanniversary@netzero.net

Join the Global Email Messaging System (GEMS) to get up-to-date NARFE information. It's easy and quick! To sign up log on to www.NARFE.org

Next Meeting

Wednesday, February 8, 2012
at 1:30 pm

Speaker

To Be Announced

Note - Executive Board Meeting
Immediately following the regular meeting

Greenbriar Community Building
Terrace Room
7600 Hanover Parkway
Greenbelt MD 20770
Call the Office for directions
301-441-1096 Dial "0"

JOB APPLICANTS WANTED

Condominium Property in Greenbelt, Maryland is seeking a Maintenance Technician with experience in building maintenance with ability to do basic drywall, plumbing and electric work. This is a 30 hour job with option for Full-time. Starting at \$13.50/hr. requirements are:

- Proficiency with all the tools and equipment appropriate to job responsibilities
- Must have valid driver's license and reliable transportation
- Ability to lift 50 pounds or more
- Good oral communication and customer service skills
- Must work "on call" evenings and weekends on a rotating basis, must be able to work overtime as needed

Interested candidates please fax your resume and references to 301-596-2082 or email plineback@cviinc.com

**NARFE
Chapter 1122
Total
Membership
As of
January
2012
647**



THANK YOU



IN MEMORIAM

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encourage the purchase and retention of long term care insurance and to replace the current law which allows a one time \$500 tax credit, with a new law allowing an annual \$200 tax credit on policies purchased in 2013 or later.

REDUCE SENIOR HOMEOWNERS PROPERTY TAXES: The collapse of the housing boom, which drove up property values, has resulted in a large decline in home values. Some jurisdictions have increased their property tax rate to make up for the drop in revenue due to lower assessments, which for some has resulted in paying the same or higher taxes. This has resulted in some emigrating from Maryland to a more senior-friendly state resulting in economic, civic and social losses to Maryland. NARFE seeks to increase the Homeowners Tax Credit (HTC) assessment limit from the current \$300,000 to \$450,000 for eligible homeowners with lower incomes as well as adjust other factors for inflation. NARFE also seeks reassessment of homes in a county when median home sales prices fall by more than 10% from the previous year. And finally we want a statewide cap on the rate of increase for Homestead Tax Credits to 5% from the current 10%.

OTHER AREAS OF SUPPORT: NARFE will work on behalf of bills to: 1) equalize tax exemption for pensions of public service employees and military retirees, 2) broaden the False Claims Act, 3) institute open government, and 4) initiate public funding of candidates for the General Assembly.

You can help our Federation leaders toward these goals by contacting your delegate or senator in Annapolis at 301-970-5000 or 410-841-3000.

NARFE To Conduct National Call Congress Day On February 15

A House-Senate Conference Committee, facing a February 29 deadline, will soon begin negotiations on extending the payroll tax holiday. The House passed position asks current and future federal employees to bear a third of the cost of the extension through further pay freeze and increased retirement contribution totaling \$64.5 billion over ten years. NARFE and the entire federal postal coalition are fighting back. Please use the information below to tell Congress this proposal is unfair.

On Wednesday, February 15 call the Capitol using NARFE's toll free number, 1-866-220-0044. Ask the operator to connect you to your representative's and/or senators' office.

Tell the staff person who answers the telephone where you live so they know you are a constituent, then say:

"I am a retired/active federal employee and member of NARFE." [Tell the staff person a little about your work.]

"[Senator or Representative X] represents

thousands of federal workers and retirees and their survivors. Any plan that pays for 1/3 of the payroll tax cut by taking money out of the pockets of fewer than 2% of America's middle class is unacceptable, unfair, and certainly isn't shared sacrifice."

"Federal workers, retirees, and survivors have already done their part, saving the federal government \$50 billion over two years. Making \$65 billion in further cuts to pay, earned health and retirement benefits, or making changes to cost-of-living adjustments, would unfairly single out those who protected our nation, including many now on a fixed income."

GREAT PRESIDENTIAL QUOTES

"As spokesmen for the United States Government, you and I take off our hats to those responsible for our American production—to the owners, managers, and supervisors, to the draftsmen and engineers, to the workers—men and women—in factories and arsenals and ship-yards and mines and mills and forests and railroads and highways. We take off our hats to the farmers who have faced an unprecedented task of feeding not only a great nation but a great part of the world. We take off our hats to all the loyal, anonymous, untiring men and women who have worked in private employment and in Government and who have endured rationing and other stringencies with good humor and good will. We take off our hats to all Americans who have contributed magnificently to our common cause."

Franklin D. Roosevelt

**NARFE Chapter 1122
Treasurer's Report for
December 2011**

Balance as of 11/30/2011	\$3,011.58
Income:	
Returned Check (#1316 Luncheon)	50.00
12/14 Luncheon	260.00
NARFE (Nov Dues)	<u>297.93</u>
Total Income	607.93
Expenses:	
R. Doyle (Postage Due Returned Newsletter)	7.04
W. Wilcox (Payment 12/14 Luncheon)	218.97
MD Fed NARFE (2011 Per Capita Dues)	285.00
U.S. Postal Service (Mailing Jan Newsletter)	<u>57.64</u>
Total Expenses	568.65
Balance as of 12/31/2011	\$3,050.86
Submitted: Warren C. Wilcox, Treasurer	

The February issue of **NARFE** Magazine contains must-read coverage of the perils facing current and future federal retirees.

The budget process, FECA, and a NARFE-PAC preview are also covered.

Pages 20 and 21 are devoted to Renewing Respect and our Protect America's Heartbeat campaign.

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College Park

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www.mdnarfe.org/chapter1122

MD Federation Website
www.mdnarfe.org

NARFE National Website
www.narfe.org



Presidents' Day
February 20

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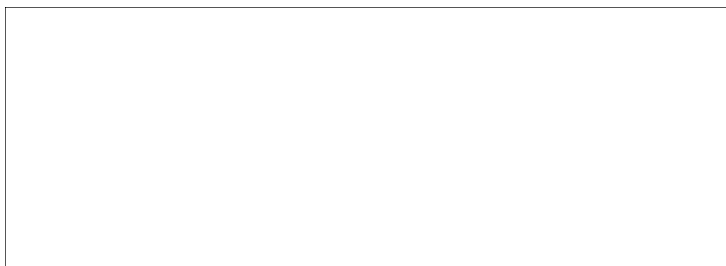
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Important Telephone Numbers

NARFE National Headquarters (Direct Line)
1-703-838-7760
NARFE Sponsored Line to Congress
1-866-220-0044

To contact Maryland Delegates and Representatives
Call 301-858-3000 or visit the NARFE Web Site
www.mdnarfe.org

To reach the Governor call
1-800-811-8336 or visit the Web Site
www.gov.state.md.us/mail

MARYLAND OFFICIALS & MORE

Martin J. O'Malley, Governor	1-800-811-8336
Anthony G. Brown, Lieutenant Governor	410-767-3125
Thomas Mike Miller, Jr., Pres./Senate	301-858-3700
Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House	301-858-3800
Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD)	202-224-4654
Senator Benjamin L. Cardin (D-MD)	202-224-4524
Congressman Steny Hoyer (D-5th Dist.)	202-225-4131
Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards (D-4th Dist.)	202-225-8699
President Barack H. Obama	202-456-1111
White House Web Site:	http://www.whitehouse.gov/

Inclment Weather Notice! When Prince George's County Schools are closed or opening late, the NARFE Chapter 1122 meeting will not be held.