

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

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



Our Benefits Remain at Risk

Dr. Howard Waterworth, 1st Vice President and Legislative Chair

Congress has approved increasing tax rates on the wealthiest Americans but this alone is only a small part of what is needed to produce a balanced budget for 2013 AND contribute to reducing the accumulated deficit. Congress is exploring many additional options to increase income such as closing loopholes in taxes, reducing entitlement programs and cutting back on federal employment and benefits. And the goals of NARFE are on the table and being scrutinized as a means to reduce federal spending. That includes all of us!!

The Congressional Budget Office published a study comparing the compensation of Feds and private-sector employees based on data from 2005-2010 and found, in some cases, feds are paid more than private-sector employees with similar characteristics. But that simple finding can be misleading. For example, the CBO study found that for the most highly educated, Feds have salaries that are 23% less than private-sector workers with similar characteristics.

The CBO methodology used ignores some facts and includes irrelevant factors for setting pay. The CBO study does not take into account the level of job responsibility, specialized training and length of tenure with an employer, all of which employers take into account when determining pay. When comparing pay for similar jobs (rather than for individuals with similar training) the nonpartisan Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data show that Fed jobs pay 26% less than similar private sector jobs.

NARFE is particularly concerned about the outcome of six important issues:

- **Our Annuity contribution** - The idea of forcing Feds to pay an extra 1.5% into their retirement is essentially a new tax. As part of the payroll-tax holiday and an employment benefits extension deal, newly hired Feds will al-

ready pay 2.3% more. Workers in the private sector with benefits are not required to contribute toward that retirement.

- **High-Five vs. High-Three** - If the retirement system is changed to use an employee's highest 5 years of salary, it will reduce a Fed's retirement monthly income, which could amount to cuts of \$2000 to \$7000 over the next five years.
- **Ending FERS Supplement** - One third of FERS employee's retirement is a social security benefit. Some become eligible for retirement prior to age 62 when they can begin collecting Social Security. The supplement is the additional annuity FERS retirees may receive until they are eligible for the Social Security portion of their retirement benefits. Removing the FERS Supplement would reduce the median FERS annuity from \$425 to \$270 per month.
- **Extending the Pay Freeze** - Feds have already contributed \$60 billion to deficit reduction through a two-year pay freeze. Extending the freeze would widen the gap between Feds and their counterparts in the private sector, and lose our most experienced workers to higher-paying jobs in the private sector.
- **Health Insurance Premiums** - A proposal under consideration would see our premium contribution increase from 30% to 43%, which translates to an increase of \$2,850 by 2020.
- **And finally, COLA's** - the Fiscal Commission recommended changing the current COLA adjustment index to the "Chained CPI." It does not factor in real inflation and does not reflect the disproportionately higher health care costs paid by older Americans. This will result in lower COLA's and be compounded year by year.

You can weigh in on these issues by calling your Senator at 202-224-3121 or the U.S. Capital switchboard at 866-220-0044.

Volume 7, Number 2

February 2013

Upcoming Events

- February 5
Federation Board Meeting
- March 9-12
Legislative Training Conference
- March 19
United Seniors Legislative Forum
Annapolis
- April 29-May 1
Maryland Convention
Ocean City

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THANK YOU TO

**Dr. Manan Sharma
Research Biologist
USDA, Environmental,
Microbial, and Food Safety
Laboratory**

“What’s In Your Salad?”

His timely presentation was just what we needed for the flu season that has hit the country. Learning how our salad greens are harvested was interesting to all. Main point; “Wash Your Hands often.”



February Meeting

**Wednesday, February 13, 2013
At 1:30 PM**

Guest Speaker

Dr. John Kennedy, PADI, NAUI

**Professional Association of Diving Instructors
National Association of Underwater Instructors
Scuba Diver 50 years/YMCA Instructor 30 years**

“The Lost Pyramids of Rock Lake”

*All are Welcome
Refreshments Served*

**Greenbriar Community Center, Terrace Room
7600 Hanover Parkway, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Call office for directions 301-441-1096 Dial 0**

Executive Board Meeting immediately follows

Chapter Corner



Having lost Angelo Ferrara, Chapter NARFE Pac Chair, in December we were sad to hear that his wife of 68 years Natalie Ferrara passed away on January 8th. They were such a fun couple. Like her husband, Natalie was a Meals on Wheels volunteer for over 38 years. Pictured here are Natalie and Angelo enjoying one of the many Chapter luncheons they attended. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to her family and many friends.

Chapter 1122 welcomes the following members who joined in December.

**New Members
Loretta A. Lacy
Marvis G. Olfus**

**Reinstatement:
Jacqueline G. Johnson
Deonarine Dhanraj
Edward Pastula
Carolyn Rainey
William H. Vaughan**

New, reinstated, transferred and prospective members please attend the meetings. Meet fellow members and enjoy some refreshments.

Members dropped for non-renewal:

**Bernadette Harris
Athalia M. Hawkins
Meta Lagerwerf**



*IN MEMORIAM
It is with sadness that we
extend condolences to the
family and friends of:*

Joseph J. Kobylski

Lee Shields was the big winner of the 50/50 drawing at the January meeting. He donated his winnings to the chapter general fund.

Barbara Barron will represent the chapter at the National Legislative Training Conference on March 9-12 in Arlington, VA.

The chapter is still in need of volunteers for the positions of NARFE-Pac Chair, Service Officer, E-Mail Distributor and Historian. Won't YOU volunteer today?

We wish all sick and shut-in members a speedy recovery and plenty of sunshine peeking through their windows each day.

**To all February Birthday Members
“HAPPY BIRTHDAY” - from all of us!**

Have chapter news or articles to share? Email the editor: bsg.smith@verizon.net



NARFE-FEEA SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS PROGRAM

In 1987, the Federal Employee Education & Assistance Fund (FEEA) established a scholarship program for children and grandchildren of federal employees. NARFE became a member of FEEA's board of directors in 1997, and the following year NARFE's National Executive Board authorized the creation of a scholarship fund open to the children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and stepchildren of NARFE members. The NARFE-FEEA Scholarship Awards Program is supported by NARFE members and administered by FEEA. A total of \$787,000 has been awarded in scholarships to the children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and stepchildren of NARFE members (as of 2012).

The next program begins on February 1, 2013, and will end on April 26, 2013. The official 2013 scholarship application will appear in the February issue of NARFE magazine and will be available

for downloading from the NARFE website February 1-April 26. NARFE plays no role in the compilation, dissemination, judging or notification of winners in the competition. Winners will be notified by FEEA. All applicants will receive a letter from FEEA thanking them for their participation. Names of the winners and their sponsors will be posted on the web site after the competition and also will appear in the December issue of NARFE magazine.

To make a tax-deductible contribution to the NARFE-FEEA Scholarship Awards Program, checks should be made payable to NARFE-FEEA Scholarship Fund and mailed to: NARFE Scholarship Awards Program c/o FEEA 3333 S. Wadsworth Blvd., Suite 300, Lakewood, CO 80227 To donate by credit card, call 800-323-4140.

NARFE Chapter 1122 Treasurer's Report for December 2012	
Balance as of 11/30/2012	\$2,630.59
Income:	
50/50 Raffle (Nov)	11.00
Lost Check (#1362)	38.78
Holiday Luncheon (12/12)	425.00
Total Income	474.78
Expenses:	
CHI Centers Inc (Printing Nov Newsletter)	65.56
R. Haas (Memorial Plant to Mrs. Lydon)	42.40
W. Wilcox (Purchase Raffle Tickets)	9.99
B. Smith (Replace Lost Check #1362)	38.78
US Postal Service (Mailing Jan Newsletter)	64.15
Sir Walter Raleigh Inn (12/12 Luncheon)	421.39
Total Expenses	642.27
Balance as of 12/31/2012	\$2,463.09
Submitted: Warren C. Wilcox, Treasurer	

Socializing Is As Good For You As Exercise

A recent research study from Harvard University advocates that socializing for seniors has as many benefits as regular exercise. Having a job, whether paid or volunteer, is also an important and valuable way that seniors can socialize. Feeling needed and helpful is extremely important and can make all the difference in our life. When you attend chapter meetings you get to interact with other members as well as the speakers. You have the opportunity to serve others by fostering the mission of NARFE and volunteering to participate in the governance of the chapter. Come socialize and get a little exercise too!

Bowie Baysox Tickets at Reduced Price Purchase at Feb 13 Meeting - \$5.50 each By Phone \$6.00 each (mailed to you) Contact - Paul Terry 301-572-5362 Ticket Delivery at March Meeting Games begin April thru September



*Presidential Quote
In Honor of
President's Day*

"The Constitution, which requires those chosen to legislate for the people to annually meet in the discharge of their solemn trust, also requires the President to give to Congress information of the state of the Union and recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall deem necessary and expedient."

*Stephen Grover Cleveland
24th U.S. President
1893 - 1897*

!!!! Attention Chapter Members !!!!

A member is needed to volunteer to coordinate and maintain the Chapter's email list and label list. There are two principal duties involved:

- 1) To send a notification that the Newsletter is on the web site each month to members who receive it by email only. And to send important announcements to members that have requested to be on the email list. Maintaining the email list with monthly updates.
- 2) To maintain the chapter label list and update any changes to the information monthly. Printing the labels each month and furnishing them to the distributor for placement on Newsletters for mailing.

This is a vital function of the Chapter and members with computer skills and Excel program knowledge are urgently needed. If you are interested in helping with this, contact Richard Bennof at bennof4skins@aol.com or Barbara Smith at bsg.smith@verizon.net

TIME SENSITIVE MAIL DO NOT DELAY DELIVERY

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Permit # 3772



NARFE Chapter 1122
7353 Green Oak Terrace
Lanham, MD 20706

Chapter 1122 Website
www.mdnarfe.org/chapter1122

MD Federation Website
www.mdnarfe.org

NARFE National Website
www.narfe.org



President's Day - February 18

CHAPTER OFFICERS

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PAST CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

Chapter 1122
Robert Doyle
Robert F. Haas
John Fleming
Chapter 2146
Irwin Neveleff
Marty Eiband
Emma E. Barnett

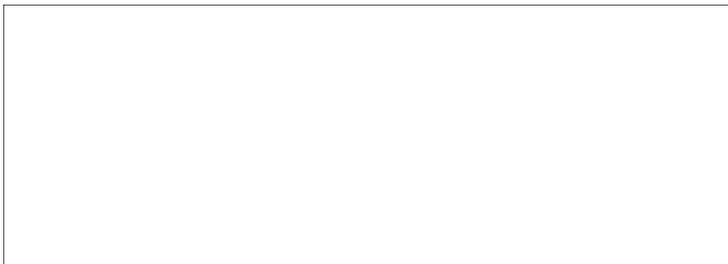
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Martin J. O'Malley, Governor 1-800-811-8336
Anthony G. Brown, Lieutenant Governor 410-767-3125
Thomas Mike Miller, Jr., Pres./Senate 301-858-3700
Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House 301-858-3800
Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) 202-224-4654
Senator 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/>

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

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