



National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

NARFE

CHAPTER 1122 NEWSLETTER

Northern Prince George's County Maryland

www.mdnarfe.org/chapter1122

January 2015

Volume 9, Number 1

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MEMBERSHIP ON DECLINE

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

Most will agree NARFE has been a significant contributor to the well-being of Federal employees and retirees over the years, thanks to the efforts by our National Headquarters staff and contacts by individual members with politicians. But for many reasons the political environment is changing so NARFE has to meet these changes with continued, even increased effort, to maintain our benefits. Politicians take note of the size and influence of organizations such as ours. But regrettably NARFE's influence will logically decline if we continue to lose members as has been happening in recent years. For example, nationally NARFE has declined from 304,601 in November 2010 to under 240,000 in July, and without including eNARFE members, NARFE had 219,095 regular members. This is 85,506 fewer than on November 2010, a 28% decline in less than 4 years. These numbers clearly translate to reduced effectiveness with our legislators. In Maryland, membership has changed from 17,151 in 2010 to 14,170 in October 2014. I've seen recent articles with startling titles such as "NARFE Survival....." and a "Future of NARFE" committee report. Many efforts are already underway to reverse this trend.

To increase membership: Our national office has taken several steps to address this problem. For example, NARFE hired Bridget Boel as Director of Membership who leads the Recruitment and Retention Department. Our headquarters office recently offered a \$10 membership discount that was matched by our Maryland Federation. NARFE publishes a quarterly: "Recruiting and Retention Journal" which contains articles on what they and what we individual members can do to encourage Feds to join NARFE. Members can download the journal as an aid to get Feds to sign up, especially active members who have daily contact with colleagues at work. Another effort is online advertising and lead generation testing via Facebook. Finally, continued explo-

ration of mutually beneficial partnerships with other organizations that are also dedicated to improving NARFE goals. They are described in the December 2014 issue of this Newsletter; all are dedicated to improving the lives of seniors.

The Maryland Federation is acutely aware of the problem and is taking action to recruit members to include such activities as speaking at Federal employee retirement seminars and participating at health fairs. New plans are under way to explore means to expand membership. Individual members, especially those not yet retired, can encourage colleagues to join.

Retain current members. Some members are not renewing their membership. NARFE headquarters sends five notices beginning about 2 months before a member's expiration date, which has resulted in one-third of lapsed members rejoining. In Maryland, Dick Strombotne, Chair of our Federation Membership/Retention Committee, has monitored this situation very closely and has taken action to re-instate members by sending reminders to lapsed members. Some 110 letters are sent monthly. Of the 4,961 members who received the lapsed member mailings through May 2013, 395 rejoined NARFE for 638 years of membership or a rate of 7.9%. A dues withholding incentive program was begun in February 2011, which has been effective in that 41% renewed their membership using this method. Members are reminded that the option of dues withholding from their annuity is convenient and important to the long term success of NARFE as it works to support our benefits.

NARFE eChapter 2363 has grown to 21,763 members as of August 2014 of whom 1,696 live in Maryland. During October - December NARFE HQ had offered free six-month memberships to current employees, which resulted in 22% joining as full time paid members.

PAST CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

Chapter 1122

Robert Doyle
Robert F. Haas
John Fleming

Chapter 2146

Irwin Neveleff
Marty Eiband
Emma E. Barnett

Chapter 264

Tom LoJacono

Total Chapter Membership December 681



Chapter Corner

Chapter 1122 welcomes the following reinstated members thru December:

Reinstated Members:

**Emma Berger
Elizabeth White**

New, reinstated, transferred or prospective members: your attendance would be greatly appreciated at the monthly meetings. Come hear interesting speakers, learn more about NARFE, meet and socialize with fellow chapter members. Bring a neighbor, friend, co-worker, family member, active Fed or retired Fed to the meeting with you; they are always welcome.

We wish all sick and shut-in members a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing you soon at the monthly meetings.

To January Birthday Members
"Happy Birthday"
from all of us!

Start the New Year by volunteering for one of the vacant positions in the Chapter. We need a Chaplain, Program Chair, Historian and NARFE-PAC Chair. We also need people with web site experience to help develop the chapter's web page. Volunteer to serve today!

The chapter sends our deepest sympathy to **Delores Green**, Chapter Secretary, on the passing of her husband Thaddeus Green on November 17 and to **Jacquelyn Adler**, Past Chapter Secretary, on the passing of her husband Rudolph Adler on November 29. We were also saddened to hear of the death of Chapter 264 member (now Chapter 1122) **Gladys Goodger** who passed away on December 3. We extend condolences to her family and friends.

In Memoriam
It is with sadness that we extend
condolences to the family and
friends of:

Mary Bubeck

A Big Thank You to Evelyn Kirby Region II Vice President, NARFE Maryland Federation, our speaker at the Holiday Luncheon. Her presentation was informative, enlightening and inspirational. She spoke about membership, recruiting, changing strategy to meet today's changing society and the future of NARFE.



Richard Bennof and Evelyn Kirby
Photo by Melinda Scott

NARFE Legislative Training Conference Register Now

- [NARFE's Legislative Training Conference](#) will be held **March 14 - 17, 2015** at the Renaissance Arlington Capital View Hotel. The three-day conference includes training opportunities, national speakers, and the opportunity to network with fellow NARFE grassroots activists. The conference culminates in a visit to Capitol Hill, where you will take your new skills and meet with your legislators and their staff.
 - Online Registration is available [now](#). The \$175 registration fee includes 6 meals, all of your training materials and transportation to and from Capitol Hill on March 17.
 - Hotel registration is available [online](#). NARFE negotiated a reduced rate of \$175 a night, plus fees and taxes.

Registration must be received by February 3, 2015. For further information see the January 2015 issue of the narfe magazine, pages 12 and 13.

ALZHEIMER'S REPORT - Creavery Lloyd, ALZ Chair

**As of December the Chapter has donated \$645.00
\$285.00 via checks
\$360.00 via ALZ Walk Page**

A very special THANK YOU to the following donors:

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| Jacquelyn Adler | Carvella Beavers |
| Elaine Bobbitt | Millard & Marion Brady |
| Lynwood Eaton | J. Honori Gaines |
| Robert Haas | Susan Jankowski |
| Creavery Lloyd | Bertha McNeil |
| Barbara Smith | |

Two of the donors listed are not members but supported our Chapter's fund raiser.

Holiday Luncheon

In a room overflowing with members the decorations lent to a festive occasion. The speaker was excellent, the food was delicious and the atmosphere in harmony with a season of cheer.



Photos by Melinda Scott

New Year's Resolution Look for the Good

In the New Year, let's resolve to get less stressed, upset, or anxious about things over which we have no control. Let's have a narrower focus on our lives, loving and helping our family and friends, making our community a better place to live, to create peace and contentment.

In the New Year, let's resolve to pay less attention to depressing stories on TV, in magazines and newspapers, and to stop focusing on what we want that we haven't got, instead of appreciating the many blessings we do have.

In the New Year, let's look for the good. We may have to search through a mass of negative media, but the good is there, all around us.

In the New Year, let our days be filled with peace, engulfed in serenity and happiness!

www.poemsource.com



What's Your EMail Address?

If you are not currently receiving the newsletter monthly by email and you would like to -- we probably don't have your correct email address. Please update your email address by notifying Membership Chairperson Elaine Cameron: elainecameron@aol.com



NARFE PHOTO CONTEST

Entries for this year's NARFE Photo Contest Calendar must be in by **Feb. 15**. All NARFE members (except those who work as professional photographers) are eligible to participate, whether or not they already have had a photo appear in past calendars. To view contest guidelines and entry rules on the NARFE website, go to www.narfe.org, log in as a member, then click on Special Programs at left. Send NARFE your best shots!

NARFE Chapter 1122 Treasurer's Report for November 2014	
Balance as of 10/31/2014	\$3,837.23
Income:	
12/14 Holiday Luncheon	230.00
50/50 Raffle (Sep)	13.00
Donation	11.00
NARFE (Nov Dues)	<u>245.96</u>
Total Income	499.96
Expenses:	
B. Smith (Nov Refreshments)	31.79
US Postal Service (Dec Newsletter Mailing)	56.40
NARFE MD Fed Chapters (Per Capita)	<u>303.50</u>
Total Expenses	391.69
Balance as of 11/30/2014	\$3,945.50
Submitted: Warren C. Wilcox, Treasurer	

Upcoming Newsletters can be viewed on the web site the last week of each month at www.mdnarfe.org/chapter1122

TIME SENSITIVE MAIL DO NOT DELAY DELIVERY



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Lanham, MD 20706

Chapter 1122 Website
www.mdnarfe.org/chapter1122

MD Federation Website
www.mdnarfe.org

NARFE National Website
www.narfe.org



Upcoming Events

- January 1
New Years Day
- January 14
Chapter Meeting
- January 19
Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- March 14-17
NARFE Legislative Conference
Arlington, VA

NARFE National Headquarters
(Direct Line)
1-703-838-7760

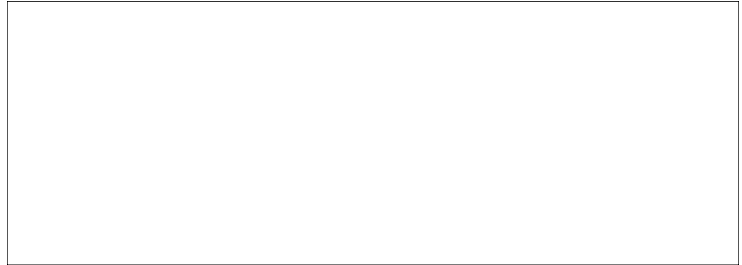
NARFE Sponsored Line
to Congress
1-866-220-0044

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

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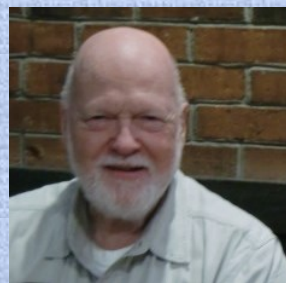


CHAPTER 1122 MONTHLY MEETING

Wednesday, January 14, 2015 at 1:30 PM

*Greenbriar Community Center, Terrace Room
7600 Hanover Parkway, Greenbelt, MD 20770*

Call office for directions 301-441-1096 Dial 0



*Speaker
Lee Shields*

A pioneer resident of Greenbelt, MD

Historic Greenbelt Revisited - History still being written !

*All Are
Welcome*

Original Art and Discussion

*Refreshments
Served*

PLEASE NOTE:

Executive Committee meeting will immediately follow regular meeting

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