

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

NARFE

CHAPTER 1122 NEWSLETTER

Northern Prince George's County Maryland

www.mdnarfe.org/chapter1122

October 2014

Volume 8, Number 8

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STATUS OF BILLS IN CONGRESS AFFECTING FEDS

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

here are 18 bills before Congress of interest or concern to NARFE, according to a report by Tom Miller, NARFE's Legislative Chair. About 20% of them relate to health benefits for us FEDS. For example, H.R. 1367 provides the OPM greater authority to control the cost of prescription drugs for the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program. H.R. 1780 would remove FEDS from the FEHBP and place them under the Affordable Care Act. H.R. 3319 requires the OPM to administer a health insurance plan for nonfederal employees under the existing FEHBP.

Another bill significant to NARFE is S. 1486 the Postal Reform Act, which threatens the integrity of the FEHBP by removing postal workers and retirees, cuts workers' compensation benefits and eliminates the FERS pension for new Another postal act H.R. 2748 would eliminate door-to-door mail deliverv in favor of cluster boxes somewhere on the street. H.R. 1795, the Social Security Fairness Act, repeals both the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). The Senate also has S. 896 that would repeal the GPO and WEP. H.R. 4193, "Smart Savings Act," would automatically enroll new employees in the Thrift Savings Plan and deposit their funds in the L (Lifecycle) fund instead of the G fund. Finally, S. 1678 eliminates the defined benefit portion of the FERS system, leaving only Social Security and the Thrift Savings Plan for FERS employees in retirement.

Some of the bills in committee could be good news. Among them is H.R. 3744, which would provide back pay to Feds who were furloughed as a result of sequestration, and H.R. 4202, which would

require the use of the CPI-E for the elderly instead of the current CPI-W for civilian annuities, military retirement and some veteran's benefits to determine cost of living adjustments. H.R. 4306. Federal Income Adjustment Rates provides Feds with a 3.3% pay raise in 2015, while H.R. 517 allows Feds to substitute, for 4 weeks, any available paid leave for any leave without pay available for either the birth or adoption of a child. House Resolution 388 recognizes that work done by federal employees should be honored and respected and outlines ways Congress should not target Federal employees. H.R. 3310 requires appropriate disclosures regarding "pension advance" schemes and caps the interest rates on these advances.

All of these House and Senate bills have been referred to various Congressional Committees. Three have been approved by their committees. Annuitants and active employees can weigh in on these issues by contacting their politicians in Washington. Contact information, by phone or email, is conveniently provided in every issue of this newsletter. There is also a legislative hotline complied by our NARFE Legislative Department distributed via email and available by phone (toll free) 877-217-8234.

You can also help NARFE respond quickly when Congress threatens to change benefits. Go to www.narfe.org, log in, select "Legislation" in the drop down menu for input. Or call toll-free 800-456-8410 to add your email address to your NARFE member record.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE
RECRUITMENT INCENTIVE EXTENDED
THRU DECEMBER
See Page 3

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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

Chapter 264

Tom LoJacono











Chapter Corner

Chapter 1122 welcomes the following new and reinstated members thru August:

New Member

Anna Puryear

Reinstated Members:

James Degenhardt Jay Edgeworth Carleen Kolpa Rose Remenick Joseph Theis Irene Wilhelm

New, reinstated, transferred or prospective members: your attendance would be greatly appreciated at the monthly meetings. Come hear interesting speakers, and meet and socialize with fellow chapter members.

Members are needed to fill vacant slots on the executive board and to participate in other chapter activities. Contact any officer or committee member listed on the front page to volunteer your services.

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

> To October Birthday Members "Happy Birthday" from all of us!

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

> Iacob Brickman Dwain Livingston Bernina McGee-Giese J. Anthony Morris Richard Myers James Puryear George Strouse Evelyn Thrift

A BIG THANK YOU!

Delegate State Alonzo Washington, District 22 for updating members on the various legislative issues he supports and has presented as a dele-It was also regate. freshing to hear of his



President Richard Bennof welcomes Delegate Alonzo Washington

accomplishments from his humble beginnings and the adversities he faced during his youth in Prince George's County. He persevered and became a college graduate with a dream of helping others. The chapter members wish him success in his future political endeavors and thank him for his presentation.



Members listen intently as Delegate Washington gave us some highlights of his early life. He discussed legislative issues and answered questions during his visit.



The September meeting was enhanced with many first time attendees. Members enjoyed tasty refreshments and a lively social hour after the meeting.



Warren McKay was the big winner of the 50/50 drawing. Congrats Warren! He denoted his winnings to the Chapter's general fund.

If you have suggestions for speakers or topics you think would be of interest to members, let us hear from you. Just email or call any officer or committee member listed on page 1.

2014 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE Recruitment Incentives Extended thru December 31 Calling All Members! Be a Recruiter!

- The recruitment incentive has been extended thru <u>December 31</u>. Recruiters will receive \$10 for each new member, current or retired who joins by December 31. (Applications must be postmarked and calls or website sign ups must be received by December 31) Give your potential new member your NARFE ID # (found on the label of your narfe magazine) to submit with their application. For applications go on line at <u>narfe.org</u> and click the join link; or call us at 800-827-3394; or use the application that appears in every issue of narfe magazine.
- The Maryland Federation will also award an additional \$10 incentive. That's \$20 for the recruiter of each new member. (Only if they join by December 31)
- All recruiters will be entered into a drawing (once for each new member they recruit) for a Kindle Fire tablet to be awarded to a randomly selected recruiter.
- Put on your recruiter shoes and chase down all the new members waiting to join!

Presidential Quote in Observance of Columbus Day

"The promise which
Columbus's discovery
gave to the world,
of a new beginning in
the march of human
progress, has been in
process of fulfillment
for four centuries. Our
task is now to make
strong our conviction
that in spite of
setbacks that process
will go on toward
fulfillment."

Franklin D. Roosevelt U.S. President 1933 - 1945

ALZHEIMER'S REPORT - Walk to End Alzheimer's (Creavery Lloyd's Walk Page) Creavery Lloyd, Alzheimer's Chair

A group team was formed online for a walk to end Alzheimer's. The walk took place on September 27 and emails were sent to members on the email list prior to that date. The walk is over but the donation period has been extended until November 28 so more members can join (the walk team) by donating to NARFE Alzheimer's Research. I ask that each of you consider joining our team and making a donation through the link below or mail your checks to the address listed.

Currently, more than 5 million Americans have Alzheimer's and that number is expected to grow to as many as 16 million by 2050. Our future is at risk unless we can find a way to change the course of this disease. We need your support! Please make a donation to help the Alzheimer's Association advance research into methods of treatment, prevention and, ultimately, a cure for Alzheimer's. For the millions already affected by the disease, the Association offers care, education, support and resources in communities nationwide.

http://act.alz.org/goto/narfe1122

Thank you for joining the movement! The end of Alzheimer's disease starts with <u>you</u>. Please share this with family and friends.

Lastly, if you prefer to mail your tax deductible contribution --

Make check payable to: NARFE Alzheimer's Research (note on check Chapter 1122)

Send to: Creavery Lloyd, ALZ Chair 1122 6725 Lamont Drive Lanham, MD 20706

DID YOU KNOW????

Any website (url) or email address shown in the newsletter may be clicked on to take you directly to the site. Or you can copy it and paste it in your browser.

NARFE Chapter 1122 Treasurer's Report for August 2014		
Balance as of 7/31/2014 Income:		\$3,671.28
NARFE (Aug Dues) Total Income	<u>192.62</u> 192.62	
Expenses: US Postal Service (Jun Newsletter Mailing) Total Expenses Balance as of 8/31/2014	<u>59.02</u> 59.02	\$3,804.88
Submitted: Warren C. Wilcox, Treasurer		



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

TIME SENSITIVE MAIL DO NOT DELAY DELIVERY



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



October 13, 2014

Upcoming Events

- October 7 **MD Federation Board Meeting** Comfort Inn, Bowie, MD
- October 8 **Chapter Meeting**
- October 13 **Columbus Day**
- October 30 **Federation Training**

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

NON-PROFIT ORG. **US Postage Paid College Park Permit # 3772**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

CHAPTER 1122 MONTHLY MEETING

Wednesday, October 8, 2014 at 1:30 PM

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

Call office for directions 301-441-1096 Dial 0

SPEAKERS:



All Are leicome

Michele Nesbit-Johnson

Federal Representative Blue Cross Blue Shield

And

Sekou Mitchell **Federal Account Manager**

Aetna Insurance

Will speak on changes and updates to the 2015 **Federal Employee Health Benefits Program** (FEHBP)

Refreshments Served

PLEASE NOTE:

Executive Committee meeting will immediately follow regular meeting