



National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

NARFE

CHAPTER 1122 NEWSLETTER

Northern Prince George's County Maryland

www.mdnarfe.org/chapter1122

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HOUSE HEARING EXAMINES VALUE OF FEHBP

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

The House Oversight and Government Reform subcommittee is determining whether the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program is a good value for federal workers. They heard from witnesses including the OPM, and discussed how to improve the FEHBP, which was described as a model health insurance program for the nation. NARFE President Joseph Beaudoin submitted testimony, highlighting the importance of the FEHBP and noting that NARFE wants to ensure that the program continues.

OPM proposes to introduce regional preferred provider organizations (PPO) as a way to increase competition and lower costs. NARFE agrees but only if the change does not lead PPOs to "cherry pick" healthy young patients, which would in turn raise costs for nationwide plans and seniors.

Another proposal concerned whether OPM should have more authority to contract directly with pharmacy benefit managers to purchase prescription drugs, which OPM states would more efficiently leverage the federal government's purchasing power. The subcommittee also discussed ways to modernize the FEHBP, including creating a "self plus one" enrollment category. Currently, FEHBP enrollees choose between self-only or family coverage, meaning that a family with 3 or more members pays the same premiums as a two-person household. NARFE supports this idea if it would lower the cost for retirees but would not if retirees on fixed incomes would be forced to pay more for the same coverage because retirees represent a higher risk pool. OPM also proposed allowing adjustments to premiums based on tobacco use or enrollment in a wellness program. While NARFE supports incentivizing healthy habits through premium differentials, it has concerns about whether it would in-

fringe on privacy. In addition, OPM proposed expanding the FEHBP to domestic partners including both opposite and same-sex couples. Changes should be made only after establishing pilot programs and allowing time for public comment.

A bill (H.R. 1367) would expand federal oversight of prescription drug benefits provided to federal employees, annuitant's and their families and it would regulate pricing in an attempt to prevent anti-competitive practices from pushing drug prices upward. NARFE supports the bill as well as other efforts aimed at ensuring fair prescription drug contracting and pricing to keep costs for participants and taxpayers under control.

This legislation would require that pharmacy benefit managers who currently contract with individual insurance plans to provide FEHBP prescription drug benefits, return 99% of all rebates, market share incentives and other monies received from pharmaceutical companies for FEHBP business. And the legislation would prohibit "drug switching" without prior physician approval; it would impose new disclosure and requirements on Pharmacy Benefit Managers in line with industry trends, and cap prescription drug prices paid by the FEHBP at the amount of the average manufacture price.

The H.R. 1367 is similar to previous bills from which the OPM has adopted many of the requirements into its standard fee-for-service and experience-rated health maintenance organization contracts. Forcing federal employees, retirees and survivors to pay more for health insurance premiums will make it unaffordable for some, says NARFE. Under a current proposal our premium contribution would shift from 30% to 43%, an increase of \$2850 by 2020.

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 August

617



Chapter Corner

Chapter 1122 welcomes the following members who joined June - August:

New Members:

Meredith Beeg	Regina Cody
Darryl Mahoney	Deborah Peebles-Hodge
Stephen Willis	Stanley Zirkin

Members Transferred into Chapter:

Barbara Aaron	Michael Albertson
Joan Alcock	Francis Allen
Jose Alonso	Paul Alter
Carl Aman	Ellen Amber
William Anonsen	Stephen Antoniak
Richard Appel	Robert Armentroout
Joan Austin	Wanda Bailey
Jean Baker	Joan Balducci
Mitzi Barnes	Miriam Barton
Bessie Bassham	Marion Beall
Ann Beasley	

Re-instated Members:

Anne Andersen	Beverly Arnette
Elaine Bobbitt	Lillie Clark
Michael Collins	Lauren Dunn
Valerie Grasso	Lawrence Harris
Angela Jones	John Kelly
David Lange	Blake Lorenz
Angelina Opalski	Marion Sampson
Derek Stewart	Norma Weetman
John Wolff	

New Prospective Members:

Lisa Benavides	Dawitt Bezabeh
Wynn Bott	Robert Cahalan
Karyl Doram-Mitchell	Natalia Goddard
A. Goddess	Christoph Gross
Selma Harrell	James Holland
Stasia Hutchison	Beverly Leftridge
Millicent Manning	Veerendra Mathur
Rose Pola	Chris Scheer
Denise Simpkins Fuller	Stephen Wills
Harold Woodall	

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

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

To all July, August and September Birthday Members
"HAPPY BIRTHDAY" from all of us!



IN MEMORIAM

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

*James Carey
Leonie Penney
Lois Winslow*

The June luncheon at the Sir Walter Raleigh Inn was attended by members and their guests who enjoyed a delicious meal with an open salad bar. They also received door prizes and token gifts to remember the occasion. **Andrew James** was presented with a gift card for his past service as 2nd Vice President/Membership Chair.

A big "Thank You" to our guest speaker **Barry Grier**, 2nd Vice President and Membership Director, NARFE Maryland Federation for giving us insight on new ways to recruit and retain members.

Special thanks to **Jana Over**, Chapter 264's Treasurer, Editor and Membership Chair for coordinating the merger of the chapters. Jana and other members of 264 have done a tremendous job at making the transition of Chapter 264 with Chapter 1122 flawless. (See Jana's article page 3)

There currently are open positions that need to be filled on the Executive Board. Please give it some thought and volunteer to become an active member on the Chapter Executive Board. See vacant positions on page 1 under Executive Board and contact any Board member to become a volunteer today.

NARFE Chapter 1122 Treasurer's Report for May, June and July 2013	
Balance as of 4/30/2013	\$2,584.61
Income:	
50/50 Raffle (Feb & May)	39.00
Donations	35.00
6/12 Luncheon	400.00
NARFE Chapter 264 (Partial Treasury Fund)	950.02
NARFE (May & Jun Dues)	<u>407.54</u>
Total Income	1,831.56
Expenses:	
CHI Centers Inc. (Printing May Newsletter)	76.01
B. Smith (May Refreshments)	20.34
J. Wilcox (\$25 Gift Card 6/13 Luncheon)	30.95
B. Barron (NARFE Meeting Registration)	45.00
Sir Walter Raleigh Inn (6/13 Luncheon)	424.98
US Postal Service (Annual Mailing Permit)	200.00
US Postal Service (Mailing Jun Newsletter)	<u>39.89</u>
Total Expenses	837.17
Balance as of 7/31/2013	\$3,579.00
Submitted: Warren C. Wilcox, Treasurer	

THE MERGING OF A CHAPTER - History of NARFE Chapter 264

by Jana Over, Chapter 264 Treasurer, Newsletter Editor and Membership Chair

NARFE Chapter 264, 60 years old in 2013, was chartered on June 10, 1953, under the parent organization, the "National Association of Retired Civil Employees". As is often the case with volunteer organizations, frequent leadership changes occurred and a compiled record of Chapter 264 leaders, activities and sponsored actions does not exist. I am therefore very grateful to Susan Pellant, daughter of Erma Pellant (1923 - 2013), for saving Erma's small collection of Chapter 264 documents for me. This short article would have been impossible without Erma's well-organized files. The website holding Erma's Memorial Mass booklet and Eulogy (which includes her experiences as a long-time volunteer) may be found at <http://www.stproductions.org/Erma/Erma.htm>.

Chapter 264 began with 54 members in 1953 and grew to well over 1000 members by the 1970s. While Chapter membership was still high in 1996 at 874, 20 years later, in 2013, membership had shrunk to approximately 250 members. These numbers do little to showcase the vibrancy of the early decades of Chapter 264, which our oldest members remember and often revisit in stories told at chapter meetings.

Hundreds of volunteers across 60 years kept Chapter 264 alive and vibrant. Erma's 1990s newsletters are full of comprehensive articles on pending legislation, NARFE Maryland Federation and Headquarters actions, time-sensitive guidance for federal employees and meticulous meeting minutes. Prior to the advent of the internet, these detailed chapter newsletters were a vital and valuable communications tool, keeping members well-informed on critical issues of the day.

Early Chapter 264 meetings and luncheons were very well attended by hundreds of members and spouses. By the 1990s attendance averaged around 75 people, and gatherings were held at a wide variety of locations including the First United Methodist Church at Queens Chapel and Belcrest Road, the Golden Bull Restaurant, the Anchor Inn, the Argyle Country Club, Riversdale Mansion, Prince George's Plaza Community Center and Col-

lege Park Community Center. During the 1990s, dozens of local politicians and speakers from federal service providers spoke at meetings and luncheons, as well as local celebrities such as Mike Causey, Washington Post columnist, and artists such as Naba Singha, a master musician and dancer from India.

Chapter 264 actively engaged with the local community. In 1995, NARFE Chapter 264 and the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute arranged for the planting of a Redbud tree at the Hyattsville Public Library, in commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the death of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. In 2014, the Hyattsville Library building is slated for extensive renovation. Perhaps the newly merged chapters 264 and 1122 can sponsor another tree planting?

Chapter 264 was also very active in NARFE Maryland Federation and National Conventions. For example, at the May 1996 mini-convention, Chapter 264 submitted a resolution to change the NARFE name to reflect membership eligibility for ACTIVE as well as retired employees. A 1996 Chapter 264 newsletter states that this resolution was defeated by the convention. The chapter newsletter article is unclear, however Chapter President James Keefer may have sent the proposal to NARFE Headquarters anyway. Perhaps Chapter 264 led the way in encouraging the "future" name change to National Active and Retired Federal Employees?

Chapter 264 has had a long, successful history supporting NARFE goals. Current Chapter 264 members will remember the important work done by Chapter 264 since 1953 and look forward to a vibrant future as Chapter 264 merges with Chapter 1122.

"Laughter is the best medicine and it's available even if you don't have health insurance."
Robert Swiatek

**Presidential Quote
In Honor Of
Labor Day**

"Labor is prior to, and independent of, capital; that, in fact, capital is the fruit of labor, and could never have existed if labor had not first existed; that labor can exist without capital, but that capital could never have existed without labor. Hence they hold that labor is the superior – greatly the superior – of capital"

Abraham Lincoln
16th President
(1861 - 1865)

**What's Your E-Mail
Address?**

If you are not currently receiving the newsletter monthly by e-mail and you would like to – we probably don't have your correct e-mail address.

Please update your e-mail address by notifying Membership Chairperson Elaine Cameron: elainecameron@aol.com

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

- **September 2**
Labor Day
- **September 11**
Chapter Meeting
- **October 1**
Federation Board Meeting
Bowie, MD
- **October/November TBD**
Federation Training

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

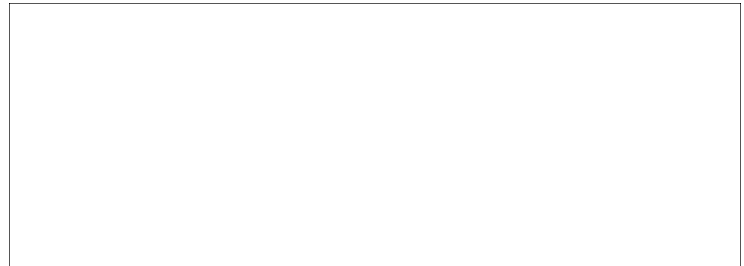
**NARFE Sponsored Line
to Congress**
1-866-220-0044

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



CHAPTER 1122 MONTHLY MEETING

September 11, 2013 at 1:30 PM

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

SPEAKER

**Dr. Keith Abouchar,
Senior Policy Advisor
for Congressman Steny Hoyer**

*All are
Welcome*

*Refreshments
Served*

Call the office for directions 301-441-1096 Dial 0

Executive Board Meeting immediately follows

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