



National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

NARFE

CHAPTER 1122 NEWSLETTER

Northern Prince George's County Maryland

www.mdnarfe.org/chapter1122

April 2014

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The Legislative Process—How Our Benefits Can Be Improved Dr. Howard Waterworth, 1st Vice President and Legislative Chair

Our Federation Legislative Committee is working with the Maryland Legislature to improve our benefits this year; among them is to allow a tax deduction every year on the premiums we pay for long term care insurance and to allow a \$5,000 subtraction from income for civilian persons as is currently allowed for military retirees. But the process for reaching that goal by our Delegates and Senators is long and complex. I thought you would like to know how this might happen.

The procedure by which the laws of Maryland are enacted is dynamic and complex. An idea or concept must pass through many processes before it becomes law. Citizens must approach their legislators to introduce a Bill. If agreed, a Bill is drafted by the Department of Legislative Services, reviewed by the legislator, and prepared for introduction.

When the session convenes, the Reading Clerk reads the title of the Bill being introduced and indicates the committee to which it has been referred by the presiding officer. The Bill is then referred to a committee, which receives testimony and takes action on the Bill. Lobbyists, officials from state agencies, local government reps, and other interested citizens speak at these hearings, for or against the Bill. Revisions may then be made.

Each Bill is then reported back to the floor by the committee, with its recommendations. Amendments may be made from the floor by any member, after which the Bill is printed for its third and final reading. Back on the floor this Bill is presented as a third reading in its chamber of origin and must be passed by a majority of the membership in order to remain under further consideration.

Second chamber: The procedure follows a similar process to that of the

chamber in which the bill originated, except amendments may be proposed during both second and third readings. If without amendments, final passage may occur without reprinting.

If a Bill that originates in one chamber but is amended in the second chamber, the Bill is returned to the chamber of origin where a vote is taken to concur or reject the amendments. If concurrence is voted, a final vote is taken as amended and action is completed. The Bill is reprinted to include amendments before passing it to the Governor.

If rejected the Bill may be given to a conference committee to resolve the differences between the two chambers. The Conference committee, made up of three members from each chamber appointed by the presiding officer, is to reach a settlement on the proposed legislation. It then goes back to both chambers for a vote without amendments. If adopted the Bill is voted upon for final passage in each house. If rejected by either house, the conference committee may be directed to reconvene, new members may be appointed, or the Bill fails.

If approved by both chambers, the Bill is presented to the Governor. Except for constitutional amendments and the budget bill, presentations of all Bills to the Governor are mandatory and must be done within 20 days after adjournment of a session. If the Governor does not veto a Bill it becomes law. The power to override a veto rests with the legislature involving several processes, hearings, etc.

In view of this process to develop new laws to include the above NARFE's request to improve our benefits as Maryland residents, one wonders how we got the benefits already in hand to say nothing about expanding them. Once again we can weigh in on this process by contacting our politicians in Annapolis.

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 February 743

Chapter Corner

Chapter 1122 welcomes the following new, prospective and reinstated members for March:

New Member:
Michael Hartman

Prospective Members:
Quan Quan
A. Surratt

Reinstated Members:
Helen Keppler
John Lee
Margaret Napier-Green

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

President **Richard Bennof** expresses his thanks to all members who sent in their By-law and Constitution ballots. The revisions were approved by the chapter majority membership and will be sent to NARFE National Headquarters for final approval.

Congratulations to **Bertha McNeil**, the lucky winner of the 50/50 drawing at the March meeting.

In compliance with Chapter 1122 bylaws, it is time to elect new officers. Nominations are open for President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Nominations will be voted on at the May 14 meeting. New officers will be sworn in at the June 11 luncheon meeting. Please submit the name and phone number of any nominee(s) to the Nominations Committee by **May 5**.

Nominations Committee
Elaine Cameron (301-792-7544)
Lee Shields (301-474-5321)
Bob Haas (301-937-7987)

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

Anna Novotsky
Lois Lottie

Thank You Jerry!

Jerry Irvine, Public Affairs Manager, Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission spoke on the various programs at WSSC.



Photo by Melinda Scott

Some interesting items he mentioned were Fats, Oils, Grease (**FOG Program**) that deals with how we dispose of these substances down our drains and other methods that can be used for disposal. Disposable wipes were also mentioned because they do not dissolve when they get to the end of the line thus causing huge backups and problems in the sewage system. WSSC is working on the aging infrastructure to replace pipes before they break and cause extensive damage. Jerry plans to visit us again with more helpful information. We welcome him back anytime.

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

To all **April** Birthday Members
"HAPPY BIRTHDAY" from all of us!

Facebook and Twitter

Did you know that NARFE is now on Facebook and Twitter? On Facebook, our username is **NARFE National Headquarters**. Our Twitter handle is **@narfehq**. Don't miss out. Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter to keep informed every day.

NARFE Chapter 1122 Treasurer's Report for February 2014	
Balance as of 1/31/2014	\$3,420.10
Income:	
NARFE (Jan & Feb Dues)	379.32
Total Income	379.32
Expenses:	
CHI Centers Inc. (Printing Feb Newsletter)	312.48
R. Bennof (Feb Refreshments)	9.73
E. Cameron (MD Fed. Meeting)	20.00
L. Shields (Stamps Jan Newsletter)	73.50
US Postal Service (Mar Newsletter Mailing)	95.66
Total Expenses	511.37
Balance as of 2/28/2014	\$3,288.05
Submitted: Warren C. Wilcox, Treasurer	



FUTURE OF NARFE - FACE-TO-FACE POWER

By Jana Over

In a February 23, 2013 article, “Scientific Proof for the Power of Face-to-Face” the author David McMillin wrote about new research on the different outcomes of face-to-face versus video or telephonic meetings. Here’s what he wrote:

“A new study conducted by the Meetology Group with support from the IMEX Group, Barbican, Dubai Convention Bureau and PCMA Education Foundation compares how three different environments help people generate ideas. Using more than 100 participants at the IMEX 2012 exhibition, researchers paired participants together and then asked them to develop solutions to a problem. Some participants worked together via video. Some worked together via phone. Some worked together face-to-face at the same desk.

The outcomes? Face-to-face was a clear winner across the board with more ideas, better quality of ideas and a wider variety of ideas. On average, the face-to-face partners developed 30 percent more ideas than participants in video or voice conditions.

“These results appear to suggest that if you are a company or organization that needs to generate a high quantity of fresh, new ideas, then getting a group of staff or other people - perhaps stakeholders or customers - together in the same room will produce measurably more than other methods,” Carina Bauer, CEO, IMEX Group, said in a statement.

“This is not to discredit the part that other methods can play, especially in this age of crowd-sourcing, for example, but it does suggest that if creativity or innovation is the aim, then face-to-face collaboration is more efficient and productive,” Bauer added.

Meetings Mean Ideas

As budgets tighten and technology evolves, organizations need to know that paying for registration fees and travel expenses to participate in face-to-face meetings will yield real results.

“The economic impact of face-to-face meetings is well-documented, and this report highlights the true creative impact of bringing people together,” Deborah Sexton, President and CEO, PCMA, says. “When it comes to moving businesses forward, ideas are an invaluable fuel for the future.”

The timing of the report is especially powerful for the United States Postal Service. While the USPS has recently come under fire for its \$2.2 million investment to be part of the National Postal Forum, this research clearly outlines that face-to-face collaboration is key to generating innovative approaches to mail delivery.”

How can we leverage this power during NARFE Chapter meetings? In NARFE Conferences? When meeting active employees? Something to brainstorm about during a future Chapter meeting.....

FUTURE OF NARFE - INCREASE YOUR ADVOCACY IQ

Do you have limited access to personal computers? Or are you so swamped for time that you can’t research and respond to key legislative issues on the internet? But you want to be more involved! You want to help advocate for your federal benefits! So what do you do????

No home PC? Solution: Call the NARFE legislative hotline each week and follow the instructions to advocate on key issues.

Call toll-free at 1-877-217-8234.

Have a home PC but no time to research? Sign up for the GEMS weekly emails and use the provided e-letters to reach your legislator. Visit https://www.narfe.org/departments/isi/join_gems.cfm today and Join GEMS!

Postal Overhaul Goes Beyond Postal to Federal Employees

The Postal Reform Act of 2014 (S. 1486) was recently approved by the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. It now awaits consideration by the full Senate. The bill would severely diminish or authorize the elimination of long-standing employee benefits, including changes to worker’s compensation for federal and postal employees disabled by work-related injuries and illnesses. It also eliminates the promise of retirement income security for the next generation of postal employees, and includes changes to the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program for postal employees and retirees. Please send a letter to your Senators opposing S. 1486. Go to the NARFE website at: www.narfe.org/heartbeat/ Now is the time to send the action alert to tell Congress to stop the ongoing attacks on federal employees and retirees as they look for solutions.

Our on line web site is being revamped. When it is up and running you will be notified by email. If your email address has changed please update and send to:
Elaine Cameron
Membership Chair
elainecameron@aol.com

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Chapter 1122 Website
www.mdnarfe.org/chapter1122

MD Federation Website
www.mdnarfe.org

NARFE National Website
www.narfe.org



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Upcoming Events

- April 9
Chapter Meeting
- April 22
Earth Day
- May 5 - 6
Federation Mini Convention
Bowie, MD
- August 24 - 28
NARFE National Convention
Orlando, FL

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

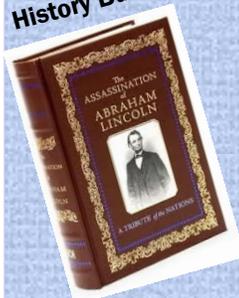
CHAPTER 1122 MONTHLY MEETING

Wednesday, April 9, 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

History Buffs



**All Are
Welcome**

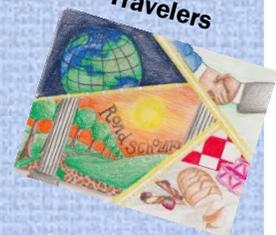
SPEAKERS

Irving Shapiro
Service Officer, NARFE Chapter 1127
"Lincoln Assassination"

And

Nancy Shapiro
"Road Scholar Programs"
(Formerly Elder Hostel)

Travelers



Refreshments

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.