



B-CC BUZZ

Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chapter 258 - Chartered November 10, 1953
National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

November – December 2011

President's Corner

We have not been idle during the summer hiatus. I am serving on a Maryland Federation committee that is considering sites for the 2013 and 2015 Federation conventions. I participated with several other committee members in visiting three Ocean City hotels. Other committee members visited possible convention sites in Hagerstown, Bowie, Annapolis, and Solomons in Southern Maryland. The Committee gave a preliminary report at the Federation Board meeting Oct. 4. The full Board will make a selection at a future meeting.

On Aug. 17, Chapter 258 1st VP Manny Karbeling, Secretary Ruth Frances, Program Chair David Richman, and I met with Congressman Chris Van Hollen in his Rockville office. David arranged the meeting. One representative from each of the Gaithersburg, Aspen Hill, Rockville, and White Oak chapters joined us. (See photo, pg 3)

David and I addressed Mr. Van Hollen thanking him for his past support and urging him to continue that support as our Congressman, and as a member of the Congressional "Supercommittee". Congressman Van Hollen was very receptive to our comments and pledged to continue his support as much as he could, but pointed out that everyone must make sacrifices, and we must be prepared bear our share.

More than 30 members attended our September 9 Chapter meeting and open forum. Several suggestions and comments were made about operation of our Chapter. The Chapter Board of Directors will consider these suggestions and comments and report to the membership on them. We sincerely appreciate the interest and concern shown by those who participated.

Gordon Brown

November 18: Senior Health Insurance Assistance Program

The Program Director, Ms. Leta S. Blank, is our invited speaker for this meeting. The Senior Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) provides free information, educational programs, individual assistance and counseling about Medicare, supplements to Medicare, prescription drug programs, health insurance plans and long term care insurance. While most federal retirees continue their federal health programs as their secondary care coverage, and rely on it to cover prescription drug costs, questions about coverage may arise. For example, should one have Medicare part B or need part D if he or she continues to use federal program coverage? Further, what if very expensive prescription drugs are needed, are there other agencies that could provide assistance? Additionally, one can inquire about coverage, such as Medicaid, for relatives. Ms. Blank has been responsible for this program for many years; she and her well-trained staff as well as volunteers have guided thousands of Montgomery County residents in the critical areas described above. After hearing Leta's presentation, we will learn not only how valuable SHIP is, but also that it is a reliable resource available in 24 Maryland Counties. (For Montgomery County, call 301-590-2819)

December 16: Holiday Chapter Luncheon

Once again Chapter 258 will hold its annual holiday luncheon at the Fox Hill Senior Condominium in Bethesda, on Friday, December 16, we hope to see many of our members and their guests there. Reservations are required (reservation form, menu and address are on page 3). Our Chapter President, Gordon Brown, has extended an invitation to Congressman Chris Van Hollen to attend our luncheon. In his reply, Mr. Van Hollen said he appreciated the invitation and hoped his schedule will permit him to attend. However, the reply comes with the caveat, it is possible that one of his aides would attend the luncheon in the Congressman's place. Of great significance to every American, Rep. Van Hollen is one of six Congressmen appointed to the so-called Super Committee to study ways of balancing the federal budget. It would be great if many of our members would be in attendance to show Rep. Van Hollen (or his staff representative) that we appreciate his past support.

Distinguished Members

Before 2008, the NARFE National Bylaws provided that a member who was at least 85 years old and had been a NARFE member for 20 years was entitled to be an Honorary Member without further payment of national dues. Because of NARFE's financial problems, members attending the 2008 national convention voted to discontinue Honorary Membership and to replace it with Distinguished Membership with the same qualifications. Distinguished Members, however, must continue to pay membership dues. Those who had already been awarded Honorary Membership status before the 2008 change were permitted to continue that status without payment of membership dues.

Any Chapter 258 member who is 85 years or older, has been a NARFE member for at least 20 years, and who wishes to become a Distinguished Member, should send his or her full name, date of birth, and approximate date of joining NARFE to Nora Taylor at 5216 Westpath Way, Bethesda, 20816; or msntaylor@yahoo.com.

What are NARFE Chapters for?

According to our national Bylaws, NARFE chapters' purposes are: To establish local programs for recruitment and retention of

members; to keep members informed on plans and activities of NARFE; to educate members on issues confronting NARFE at federal and state levels; to help members (through Service Officers) resolve problems that they cannot resolve themselves; and to establish a means of direct participation in achieving NARFE objectives and goals.

Most chapters also have programs to educate and inform members on local and state issues affecting them as citizens, especially as senior citizens.

Health Benefits Forum

Congressman Chris Van Hollen invites you to his ninth annual federal employees health benefits forum, in cooperation with the Maryland Federation of Chapters of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association.

| Monday, November 14, 2011 | Thursday, November 17, 2011 |
|---|---|
| 9:00 - 11:00 am (Panel begins at 9:30 am) | 7:00 - 9:00 pm (Panel begins at 7:30 pm) |
| Holiday Park Senior Center 3950 Ferrara Drive Wheaton, MD 20906 | Executive Auditorium Executive Office Building 101 Monroe Street Rockville, Maryland 20850 |

Experts on federal health insurance plans and representatives of health insurance carriers will be present at both sessions to discuss various health plan options, the impact of new health care reforms and answer individual questions.

Parking is readily available at Holiday Park. Parking is available on the streets around the Executive Office Building and in the garage across the street. There is no charge for those leaving the garage after 8 p.m. If you need special accommodations, such as a sign language interpreter, please call 301-424-3501 by October 26, 2011. For additional information or directions, call 301-424-3501.

Chapter Membership

Welcome to new members who joined recently. We hope to see many of you at this year's meetings: Morris M. Abrams, Peter Alexander, James Crutchfield, Frank Forman, Steven Hipple, George Liao, Linda Moodie, Elizabeth Rogers and Leonard Thompson.

We mourn the loss and the passing of the following Chapter members, reported in August 2011 through October 2011, and extend deepest sympathies to their families and friends: William A. Kugler and George M. White.

SAVE THE DATES!

- Nov. 14** - Monday 10 a.m. Executive Board Meeting, Ledo's Restaurant, 10300 Westlake Dr., Bethesda (Near Montgomery Mall)
- Nov. 18** -Friday 12 p.m. Chapter Meeting/Speaker: SHIP
Alfio's La Trattoria Restaurant
- Dec. 12**- Monday 10 a.m. Executive Board Meeting, Ledo's Restaurant, 10300 Westlake Dr., Bethesda (Near Montgomery Mall)
- Dec. 16** - Friday 12:00 pm Holiday Luncheon--
Invited Guest
At Fox Hill, Menu Choices &
Reservations REQUIRED (See page 3)

Chapter meeting on Friday, Nov. 18 at Alfio's La Trattoria. Social time at 11:30 a.m., lunch at noon (fixed menu \$14.00; pay at restaurant) followed by speaker. Alfio's La Trattoria, 4515 Willard Ave. (Willoughby Building) between Wisconsin Ave. and River Rd., in Friendship Heights. Free valet parking. Restaurant is walking distance to the Friendship Heights Metro and bus services.

**RESERVATION FOR LUNCHEON AT FOX HILL SENIOR CONDOMINIUM,
8300 BURDETTE ROAD, BETHESDA FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2011 AT 12:00 NOON**

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Please indicate your choice(s) of luncheon entrée:

Starter: *Roma tomato and fresh basil soup*

Rosemary Roasted Salmon Fillet with citrus sauce & saffron cous cous

Petite Beef Tenderloin with rosemary sauce, mashed potatoes & seasonal vegetable

Included with the entrée are bread rolls, coffee, and tea (herbal or iced), one glass of wine is complimentary and dessert - chocolate fudge cake with orange marmalade.

Number of reservations @ \$25.00 per person: _____ (\$ includes tax and gratuity).

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Send checks payable to NARFE Chapter 258, Gordon Brown, 7401 Westlake Terr., Unit 806, Bethesda, Md 20817

Deadline: December 12, 2011. For more information, call Gordon at 240-328-6926.



Members of the **Board of Directors, Chapter 258** and representatives of 4 other Montgomery Co., Md. chapters met with Congressman, Chis Van Hollen. Left to Right: Jim Cowie (Gaithersburg Chapter); **Manny Karbeling, David Richman**; Stuart Sklamm (White Oak Chapter); **Ruth Frances**; Nancy Leonard (Aspen Hill Chapter); Jennifer Ramsey (Rockville Chapter); Congressman Van Hollen; **Gordon Brown**.

Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chapter 258
National Active and Retired Federal Employees
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**SHIP Program Director, November 18
Holiday Luncheon at Fox Hill, December 16**

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