



B-CC BUZZ

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

February, April, June 2014

February 7: Congressman John Delaney

The board has extended an invitation to Congressman John Delaney to be our luncheon speaker. Mr. Delaney was elected in 2012 to Maryland's Sixth District, which includes Washington, Allegany, and Garret Counties, and parts of Montgomery and Frederick Counties. Congressman Delaney's primary focus is to restore our nation's economic competitiveness so we can have a strong middle class, raise our standard of living, and expand the number of good jobs. Mr. Delaney will engage our members in questions and answers session.



Congressman Delaney has extensive experience as a successful entrepreneur and as a private sector non-profit leader and is the only former CEO of a publicly traded company serving in the House of Representatives. In 2011, he founded Blueprint Maryland, a non-profit organization dedicated to invigorating Maryland's private sector.

Before the age of 40 Mr. Delaney founded two New York Stock Exchange-listed companies. He spent his business career starting and running successful companies and helping small businesses grow. Additionally, Mr. Delaney founded CapitalSource and HealthCare Financial Partners, both of which became public companies.

Mr. Delaney, with scholarship support, attended and graduated from Columbia University and also Georgetown University Law Center. He and his wife April-McClain Delaney have made community service a priority, especially in the field of education, the provision of core services, and issues effecting children. They are generous supporters of the public interest law initiatives at Georgetown University Law Center and have funded significant scholarships for student's interest in public service.

April 11: Speaker Pending; Announcement by Postcard
June 13: To Be Announced by Postcard

Program

I recently attended a Maryland Federation training session. One of the sessions was on how to get more members to attend chapter meetings. One of the things stressed in attracting members to meetings was having interesting programs. That was of particular interest to me as I am Program Chair for our chapter.

Getting speakers is a hit-and-miss proposition because I don't know what interests you: public officials (both elected and appointed) or experts on other items of interest like health insurance, reverse mortgages, or making sound investments. We had better-than-usual attendance in September when Montgomery Council President Nancy Navarro joined us, and again in November when we heard from Jennifer Malave of Blue Cross and Blue Shield.

If you have a specific subject on which you would like to hear a speaker, please let me know. My email address and phone number are elsewhere in this newsletter.

Gordon Brown, Program Chair

Membership

NARFE and Chapter 258 are losing members all the time. Four years ago, our chapter had over 1100 members; now we have ~ 900. This adversely affects our strength on Capitol Hill. Don't think our legislators and their staffers don't know that NARFE is not as strong and effective as it was several years ago. They know we are growing weaker because we have fewer members.

Chapter Membership Committees are one of NARFE's source of new members and member retention. Chapter 258 does not have a Membership Committee--no one in our chapter is doing anything to attract new members or to keep the members we have. Working on the Membership Committee is not difficult or very time-consuming. The NARFE Headquarters keeps

our Chapter membership records and every month, sends us a list of members whose memberships are expiring, members who have been dropped for not renewing their memberships, and names and addresses of prospective members. Headquarters also has form letters we can use to contact these folks to explain the impact on them and on NARFE if they don't renew their memberships.

We Need A Membership Chair!

Please contact President Allan Kam and offer to take on this task. It will benefit you and all NARFE members.

Gordon Brown

Chapter 258 Membership New Members

Welcome to our new members who joined during September 2013 through January 2014. Please tell other federal employees about NARFE membership. We hope to see many of you at this year's meetings: Promila Banik, Mindy Bickel, Mark Bickel, D.L. Brewington, Karen McCarthy, Peter P. Rispin, William Rodgers, Patricia L. Sims, David M. Sims and Julia Tossell.

CHAPTER BYLAWS REVISION (by Gordon Brown)

The Bylaws require that chapter members have at least 30 days to consider proposed changes before voting on those changes. I recently completed a review of our Chapter Bylaws and propose the following changes, which will be voted on at the April Chapter meeting.

To update or clarify existing bylaws provisions:

Article V requires the President to be the delegate to the Boards of the Maryland Federation and the United Seniors of Maryland. Those organizations' bylaws say who shall be on their Boards. Proposal: amend to say President shall represent the Chapter at these and other organizations and appoint an alternate if he or she is unable to attend meetings.

Article V authorizes the President to sign checks in the absence of the Treasurer. The Board decided that checks must be co-signed. Proposal: amend to reflect this change.

Article VII requires the Board to meet Mondays before Chapter meetings. This is too restrictive. Propose we amend to say the Board shall meet on a schedule set by its members or as directed by the President.

Article VIII says the President shall appoint chairs of 18 committees, some of which are not necessary. Proposal: reduce named committees to Audit, Service Officer, Legislative, Membership, Newsletter Editor, Nominating, Program, and Public Relations, and authorize the President to appoint chairs of other appropriate committees.

Article X requires the President to be the lead delegate at Federation and National Conventions. Propose the President be permitted to appoint another delegate to be the lead delegate if he or she cannot attend.

Remove unnecessary provisions:

Article I organization, names the chapter and states its purpose. The heading of the Bylaws names the Chapter so that part is unnecessary; Propose to remove the reference to Chapter name, and rename the Article "Purpose."

Article II defines "voting member". This term is defined in the National Bylaws.

Article II says payments and gifts to NARFE are not tax deductible but that Alzheimer's and Lupus donations are. The US Tax Code determines what is tax deductible.

Article IV gives the Order of Business for meetings. Robert's Rules of Order gives a standard Order of Business and we are governed by Robert's Rules.

Article V says the President and the Secretary shall maintain a Chapter membership roster. The Headquarters computer system does this now.

Article XI says the Chapter may contribute to a charity to memorialize a deceased member who has contributed "in extraordinary measure." The Chapter has this authority without having it in the bylaws.

Change:

Article IX says a proposed resolution (for Federation or National consideration) should be submitted to the Resolutions Committee. Proposal: Amend to say resolutions should be submitted to the Board for consideration and appropriate commendation to the Chapter.

New Provision: The National Bylaws says Chapters may have Social Members, people who are not eligible to be voting members. Proposal: Provide for Chapter Social Members who pay Chapter dues but may speak or vote only on issues having to do with Chapter social activities.

Our Sympathy



We mourn the loss and the passing of the following Chapter members, reported in September 2013 through January 2014 and extend deepest sympathies to their families and friends: Graham A. Day, Mary Louise Frechling, Andrew Husser, Joseph E. Napolitano, Raymond M. Tully and Rose K Wiener.

Consumer Report

"File of Life" is a Personal Planning for Emergencies consisting of a folding card containing all of a person's vital information such as name, address, language spoken, blood type, medical conditions, allergies, medications, emergency contacts, etc. It comes in a magnetic plastic pouch which can be placed on the door of one's refrigerator. When there is an emergency and the person is unconscious and/or not coherent, the fire and rescue responders can use the "File" to provide appropriate medical attention quickly.

The "File of Life" is available for all and it is given out free by the county's Aging and Disability Services (ADS). Forms are available at

<http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/frs-safe/resources/seniors/fileoflife.asp>

Or by calling Aging & Disability Service 240-777 3000 or Fire & Rescue 240 777 2430.

Maryland NARFE 2014 Legislative Program

The Maryland Federation of NARFE Chapters represents almost 300,000 federal employees and annuitants in Maryland. While our main efforts focus on our constituents, we support legislation impacting all seniors. The over-65 population of Maryland is rapidly approaching one million. A large portion of this population lives on fixed incomes being eroded by taxes and rising costs: unrealistic assessments and resultant ever increasing real estate taxes; a tax exemption benefit available only to dependent seniors but not senior tax filers; increasing health and long term care needs of a growing aging population especially cost of long term care for cognitive disease victims; and the inequitable treatment of public service retirees who cannot claim the same subtraction from income as military retirees. These are serious concerns encouraging our senior population to emigrate to other, less expensive states. Our legislature needs to focus on the needs of seniors on fixed incomes. The Maryland Federation's State Legislative Committee has proposed four pieces of legislation to reduce these emigration driving forces which seriously impact state revenues as well as seniors. Details of the proposed legislation are available in a brochure that will be available at our February meeting.

David M. Richman, State Legislative Committee

Chapter and Board Meeting Changes

- Chapter 258 membership monthly meetings are held at Alfio's La Trattoria. Several months ago the ownership changed hands. The new owner informed the board that the fixed price for luncheon would be increased to \$21.00 per person. When the board members met in November they decided to soften this price increase. For the February luncheon only, members will pay \$18.00 (includes tax and tip) and the chapter will pay the \$3.00 difference. In April and June the luncheons will be \$21.00 per person.

- In February only, the Board will meet on Wednesday, the 5th.

SAVE THE DATES!

Fed 5 Wednesday Executive Board Meeting, 10 a.m., Ledo's Restaurant, 10300 Westlake Dr., Bethesda (Near Montgomery Mall)

Feb 7 Friday Chapter meeting/ MD Representative 12:00 p.m., *Alfio's La Trattoria

Apr 8 Tuesday Executive Board Meeting, 10 a.m., Ledo's Restaurant, 10300 Westlake Dr.

Apr 11 Friday Chapter meeting/ NARFE Legis. Dir 12:00 p.m., **Alfio's La Trattoria

Jun 10 Tuesday Executive Board Meeting, 10 a.m., Ledo's Restaurant, 10300 Westlake Dr.

Jun 13 Friday Chapter meeting/TBD 12:00 p.m., **Alfio's La Trattoria

Friday Chapter meetings social time at 11:30 a.m., lunch at noon (fixed menu \$18.00 (*FEB 7, only; pay at restaurant) ** \$ 21.00 (April & June)

Alfio's La Trattoria, 4515 Willard Ave (Willoughby Building)
Restaurant is walking distance to the Friendship Heights Metro and bus services.

All are welcome to attend Chapter 258 Executive Board meetings.

TAX CREDITS: Some members may qualify for Homestead Property Tax Credit, Homeowners Property Tax Credit, Senior Property Tax Credit. See website: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/finance/taxes/faqs.html>

Chapter 258 members who have email addresses may opt out of receiving the BUZZ paper version and post card meeting announcements (and thus save us the cost of postage) by contacting Jo Ann Chin (jochin@verizon.net).

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US POSTAGE
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Address Service Requested

February 8, Representative J. Delaney
April 11, Pending
June 13, TBD

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