



National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association Gaithersburg Chapter 581

In our fifty-sixth year of supporting most of the Montgomery Upcounty Communities

APRIL 2012

Our Next Membership

Meeting: Tuesday, April 24th,

12:30 p.m. Luncheon,

1:15 MD Legislators' Forum

Park View Building,

Asbury Methodist Village

**PLEASE NOTE THIS AND OTHER
DATE, TIME, LOCATION CHANGES**

Other Upcoming Events

April 19th (Thursday)

Chapter 581 Board Meeting

Conley Hall, Trott Building

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

April 24th (Tuesday)

Chapter Meeting: Annual

MD State Legislators' Forum

(Preceded by a luncheon)

April 25th (Wednesday)

Deadline for May

newsletter articles

April 30th - May 1st (Monday/Tuesday)

MD Federation Mini Convention

Comfort Inn, Bowie, MD

May 3rd (Thursday)

Newsletter Assembly

Edwards-Fisher Building

9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

May 17th (Thursday)

Chapter 581 Board Meeting

Conley Hall, Trott Building

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

May 22nd (Tuesday)

Chapter Meeting

Rooms A & B, Rosborough Center

9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

May 31st (Thursday)

Newsletter Assembly

Edwards-Fisher Building

9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Please put these dates on your calendar

CHAPTER 581'S ANNUAL MD STATE LEGISLATORS' FORUM

Tuesday, April 24th, in the **Park View Building**, 4th Building on the Right on Asbury Drive on the Asbury Methodist Village Campus

Each year we invite our local senators and delegates to a Legislative Forum to hear about decisions that were made and what to expect in the future. Most join us at the luncheon at 12:15 p.m., giving us an additional opportunity for interaction. The reservation coupon to attend the luncheon, and directions to the **Park View Building**, are both in this newsletter (p. 5). Meet your elected officials; ask questions following the forum at 1:15 p.m. Please plan to attend.

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE –

John Padan and Larry Lange

By the time this newsletter reaches you, the ***primary election*** will be over and we will know who will be running for office in November in Maryland. Dave Roseman, our Maryland Federation State Legislative Committee member and United Seniors of Maryland (USM) delegate, frequently advises us to get involved in the political process. He reminds us that if we do nothing to help the candidate of our choice we can't complain when he or she loses. How many of you have had experience ***working as a volunteer during a state or national election campaign?*** I, Co-President John Padan tried it and it turned out to be very rewarding and quite a bit of fun. Let me tell you about it.

I signed up to help our local state senator and a couple of our delegates during their campaign in 2010. I reasoned that if I helped out and let people know that I was a member of NARFE it might help our cause in Annapolis. In a nutshell, I walked around neighborhoods with a candidate or experienced volunteer participating in front door interviews, worked a phone bank, participated in a photo shoot, and drove voters to polls. I especially enjoyed a chance to get acquainted with our elected officials. Surprisingly, whatever I did was really appreciated and I was never under pressure to do more than I wanted to do. Volunteer for someone between now and election day and remember to mention NARFE!

If you are able to break away from campaigning for one week in August, we hope that many of you will consider serving as a delegate to the ***NARFE National Convention***. Those trips are very informative as you participate in shaping the direction in which NARFE will move in the future. The Maryland delegation will have reserved seating but you will have opportunities to move around. Delegates will cast floor votes on many issues and will also participate with other delegates to reach agreement on how the chapter's votes will be cast in a secret ballot on other matters. One time I recall meeting in plenary session, then in a regional session, a federation session, and finally meeting as a chapter! Sounds dull but when you are at a convention it is fun. The convention will be held ***in Reno from August 26 to August 30***. See your NARFE magazine for details.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE REPORT

*Jim Cowie, MDFed Federal
Legislative Committee Chair,
Deferred Annuity Coordinator*



The onslaught on the federal community continues in the House budget proposed by House Budget Chairman Ryan. This includes a continuation of the current pay freeze for three more years for the federal civilian workforce, and a 10% reduction in federal civilian staff, over ten years, by replacing every three retirees with only one hire. These proposals are meant to contribute to reducing the deficit, but proposed cuts in taxes will overwhelmingly benefit the rich and make a mockery of NARFE's plea for shared sacrifice. Nevertheless, criticism of the budget is expected to come from some of Ryan's even more right wing colleagues, who do not think that it reduces the deficit fast enough and would favor deeper cuts that would impact even more on us.

The long standing parity in benefits between federal military and civilian employees was breached with the adoption of the two year pay freeze. This decision will be influenced by widespread sympathy for the troops in harm's way, but there are federal civilian employees in the same danger areas, and many military who are not. Yet the Ryan budget further impacts on the pay and benefits of federal civilians with no comparable changes proposed for the military.

The 10% across the board reduction in civilian staff will not discriminate between those agencies who run a tight ship and those where this contraction could be more readily absorbed. This is likely to result in poorer service, functions curtailed or eliminated which benefit segments of the population, and some substitution by private company activity at greater expense, because of reduced resources and greater difficulty in hiring quality staff.

The extent to which the current and future proposals which NARFE opposes are implemented will be greatly affected by the next election. Hence NARFE is identifying elections across the country where the result is expected to be close and intends to support candidates more favorably disposed towards NARFE's concerns than the opponent. The new MD 6 district is high on this priority list.

If the fate of your benefits, and the survival of effective Federal roles, is high on your list of concerns,

- **take an active interest in the election process, supporting the candidate of your choice.**
- **make a contribution to NARFE PAC where donations are used to support worthy candidates.**

More information on how to become more informed and better able to prepare yourself is covered in the article by **Roger Dahlman** (p. 5) in this newsletter.

STATE LEGISLATIVE REPORT

*Dave Roseman, MD PAC Chair,
MDFed Budget Officer*



State Legislative and USM Report

USM's March meeting considered revisions to their bylaws. The committee proposal to provide each individual member with the same voting rights as organizations such as AARP, NARFE and others, with NARFE leading the way was defeated. **MD Federation President Ted Jensen** was present. Individual members were given the vote in officer elections, and free admission to the annual legislative forum with dues paid. Also, NARFE and three other organizations were given a permanent seat on the board of directors where the bulk of the work is done. For more USM info go to their www.unitedseniors.net web-site.

On the Legislative Front

By the time this Newsletter is received, the Maryland Legislative Session will have ended. The results of the session will include: raised taxes for all Maryland taxpayers; more regulation on citizens such as smoking in cars with children under eight years of age; more regulation on counties; more costs transferred to the counties (pension costs), higher utility bills if offshore wind energy passes, even if the federal money will probably not be available to make the project viable; health exchanges; a possible public works bill that would allow the executive branch to seek partnerships with private companies to privatize state facilities; and lastly a possible tax increase on the price of gas. Also, the primaries will have been completed and candidates for state congressional districts decided. If you were active and made your preferences known to your legislators and you voted in the primaries you have earned the right to celebrate or complain. If you didn't participate, just pay your taxes quietly. **Everyone can learn more about the legislative session at our April 24th LEGISLATIVE FORUM. A number of legislators will be attending and will give us their view on the session.** A lunch at 12:30 p.m. precedes the forum at 1:15 p.m. See p. 5 for coupon reservation and directions.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Larry Lange, Treasurer
All Funds Summary, March 22, 2012

Checking Account	\$11,426.23
Certificate of Deposit (Restricted Chapter Life Membership funds)	2,794.98
TOTAL CHAPTER ASSETS	\$ 14,221.21
 WORKING CAPITAL	 \$ 11,426.23

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Jim Short, Membership Chairman



For the month of **February** we gained five new members, one member was reinstated, and two members were transferred in from other chapters.

During this period of time we lost 28 members, including two members who transferred to other chapters, and one voluntary cancellation, for a net loss of twenty members.

Please welcome the following new members: Robert Fisher • Teresa Hughes • Laura James-Newton • Fred Johnson • William Letzing.

Please welcome back the following reinstated member: Carol Gannon.

The following transferees should be made most welcome: Suzanne Brintzenhofe • Richard Brintzenhofe.

We are sad to report the following deaths: Evelyn Saile • Leonard Soffer.

The following members were dropped for non-payment of dues as of November 1: Charles Atchison • Charles Bondi • L. R. Calhoon • Albert Christopher • Dolores Dougherty • Richard Gasko • Alta Hayes • Ambrose Klotz • Laurence Lux • Vergie Mose • Nashed Nashed • Rhonda Panzera • Suzanne Robinson • Linda Ross • R. P. Savage • Katherine Seiferlein • Stephen Seltzer • Joy Sortino • Daryl Thornton • David Van Nevel • Larry Vanzant • Mary Watson • Roderic Witschey.

If you know any of these people, please call and try to convince them to renew their memberships and encourage dues withholding.

Each of us can help reverse the trend of losing members almost every month by getting family, friends and former colleagues to join, and convincing lapsed members to renew their membership.

IN MEMORIAM

We were very sorry to learn of the March 15th death of **Jeffrey Ferrell, son of Donnie Sue and Charles Ferrell**, very active Board members in our Chapter for many years. Jeff suffered a serious stroke last November with subsequent complications. He was a photographer who addressed our Chapter 581 about his involvement with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and displayed several of his photographs. Besides his parents he is survived by his sister Kim, brother Frank, a niece and several cousins. A memorial service was held March 24th at Epworth United Methodist Church in Gaithersburg.

Cowie (Continued from page 2)

Chapter 581 is planning a candidates' forum in the fall inviting other chapters to participate who have members in the new Districts 6 and 8. The candidates will present themselves as favorably as they can towards our concerns, each with relative strengths. For the primaries in April, as well as the November elections, we need to assess these relative strengths and the electability of a candidate, but we need also to give special emphasis to their potential to be effective, on our behalf, within the political environment in which they will find themselves if elected.

NARFE MDFED MINI-CONVENTION APRIL 30 - MAY 1

John Padan, Chapter 581 Co-president

NARFE's MDFed Mini-Convention April 30-May 1 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. includes guest speakers U.S. Representative John Sarbanes, Mon; Bill Broadwater, an original Tuskegee Airman, Tues.; August's National Convention preparation; membership issues and legislative concerns discussions. Reimbursable expenses include each day's \$20 registration (with lunch) and mileage; non-reimbursable are overnight hotel expenses. If staying over, make arrangements directly with the hotel, the Bowie Comfort Inn, 4500 Crain Highway, Bowie. Phone: 301-464-0089. From Route 50 West take US 301 South (Exit 13), stay in the right-hand lane and make the first right at the intersection. Then make an immediate right onto the access road leading to the hotel.

Action if you plan to attend: By April 16 contact me at ipadan@comcast.net to tell me which days you plan to attend plus the name, phone number, and address of your carpool driver so **Federation Treasurer Dick Strombotne** can prepare the reimbursement checks in advance.

Our 50/50 Winners at the March 27th Chapter Meeting:		
To the Chapter 581 Treasury		\$ 15.00
First place	Roger Dahlman	6.00
Second place	John Nolan	5.00
Third place	Jim Short	<u>4.00</u>
Total		\$ 30.00

CALL MARTY STROMBOTNE!

Do you know of a member who is seriously ill, has passed away, or is celebrating a special occasion? Please call Marty Strombotne, Sunshine Chairman at 240-632-9881.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S NARFE SUPPORTED BILLS

Dick Strombotne, Treasurer, Past Pres. MD NARFE
240.632.9881; DickS.narfe@comcast.net

The General Assembly opened its 90-day session January 11. The \$1.0 billion deficit was expected to be a big issue. Governor Martin O'Malley proposed a FY 2013 budget with two major features and a host of lesser ones to address the deficit. To reduce expenditures he proposed to shift to the counties the cost of teacher pensions. His largest revenue raising proposal was to reduce exemptions and deductions for higher income taxpayers.

Members of MD NARFE's State Legislation Committee (MNSLC) testified on various bills heard by the House Ways and Means Committee and/or the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee (SB&T) that dealt with these proposals. In testimony they opposed the teacher pensions cost shift to the counties as it would **not** benefit Maryland taxpayers.

They (MNSLC) supported bills:

- (1) requiring corporations to use combined reporting, which is required in 23 other states (HB 941),
- (2) expanding the sales tax base by including a wide range of services (HB 1051),
- (3) equalizing the special exemption for elderly taxpayers (HB 874),
- (4) establishing an annual tax credit for long-term care insurance (HB 347/SB 35),
- (5) including income from IRAs as part of the pension exclusion that can be claimed by elderly (age 65 and over) taxpayers (HB 1129/SB 847), and
- (6) establishing an orderly multi-year procedure to evaluate the many tax credits that Maryland provides (HB 764/SB 739).

At this writing (3/23) it appears that the tax credit evaluation bill is still alive after having been amended to delay action by one year and eliminate automatic termination of tax credits. The bill requiring combined reporting of income by corporations failed in SB&T by a 7-6 vote with the support of Committee Chair Kasemeyer, Vice-chair McFadden, and Sen. Robey, Democrats, and four Republican members.

The Senate and House of Delegates have passed quite different versions of the Budget Bill which will have been reconciled by the time this newsletter is published. **The General Assembly ends on Monday, April 9th.**

Plan to attend **Chapter 581's Legislative Forum on Tuesday, April 24th at 12:15 p.m. lunch, 1:30 p.m. forum** to hear from some of our local legislators about this year's General Assembly session (**pp. 1, 5**).

DUES WITHHOLDING FOR RETIREE MEMBERS

Dick Strombotne, Chair, Membership Retention Committee; Treasurer, Past Pres. Maryland NARFE

Are you a retiree member of NARFE? If so, then think about electing to pay your membership dues by automatic small monthly deductions from your annuity payment. For members of this chapter, the amount of dues withholding is **\$3.50 per month**. By signing up for dues withholding you will **save \$6.00 every year** off your dues and you will **never again** write a NARFE dues check.

If you have ever received a dues notice, put it aside for later payment, and then several months later received a notice from NARFE headquarters that your membership is being terminated for non-payment of dues, then dues withholding is the way to go. With dues withholding, you will **never** have to be concerned about being dropped from the NARFE member rolls.

Find a DW-2 Dues Withholding Application Form on p. 40 of January's NARFE magazine or www.mdnarfe.org/chapter0581/JOINDUESWH. Call or email either Membership Chair Jim Short or me with any questions.

NATIONAL CONVENTION RESOLUTION

Dick Strombotne

At the February 28th chapter meeting the members present voted to submit the following resolution to the 2012 National Convention (NatCon):

"NARFE supports legislation to remove the increase in pension contributions of new federal employees enacted in February 2012."

In February 2012, Congress increased the pension contributions of new federal employees to 3.1% from 0.8%, effective in three steps starting in 2013. It is part of the *Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012*. This permanent penalty to new federal employees is used to pay for temporary changes to the Medicare "doc fix" and to extensions of unemployment insurance in 2012. There is no connection between the temporary changes and the permanent penalty on new federal employees.

This was the only resolution submitted to Maryland NARFE for consideration at the Mini-convention on April 30 - May 1, 2012. Assuming it is approved there, it will be published in the Resolutions book sent to chapter secretaries and all delegates by the end of June. The convention's Legislation Committee will then consider whether to include it as part of the NARFE Legislative Program for the 113th Congress. The 2012 NatCon delegates will have the final say.

New appointments by **President Joe Beaudoin** include **Evelyn Kirby**, MD NARFE's 1st Vice-president and Legislative Director, as Legislation Committee's Vice-chair, and **Marty Strombotne**, Secretary, to the convention's Ballot and Teller Committee.

GET INVOLVED IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS TO PROTECT AMERICA'S HEARTBEAT, OUR PAY AND BENEFITS

Roger Dahlman, Captain, "Protect America's Heartbeat"

The political season is in full swing; mailboxes are stuffed with candidate flyers for April 3rd's primary election, and Jim Cowie's article (p. 2) suggests ominous futures for us as different political philosophies vie for power. Outcomes clearly will be determined by November's general election.

What should you do to engage the process and Protect America's Heartbeat (PAH)?

Read the NARFE magazine. Professional legislative analysts provide facts, insights and opinions about federal policies and proposals that directly affect us. For example, the April issue summarizes the President's 2013 "budget savings at expense of feds." We can expect a report on the Republican "Ryan budget" in next month's publication.

Become informed of the issues and candidates' positions by reading news media, visiting candidate's web sites, participating in forums and asking questions about candidates' positions. Chapter 581 will sponsor a forum for State legislature representatives, and, in cooperation with other Chapters, will sponsor a forum for federal Congressional candidates.

Visit the NARFE HQ website (<http://www.narfe.org/departments/home/index.cfm>) for up-to-date information on legislation and administration activities that affect employees and retirees. Also **monitor the Protect America's Heartbeat website** for legislative alerts and use the "quick send" message to Congressional representatives. Access PAH from NARFE HQ home page or go to <http://www.narfe.org/heartbeat/>; then just fill in sender information, click on "send my message," and a letter will go by e-mail to your representative, senator or an administration official. There is a new March 23 alert about "House majority budget targets federal workers with \$368 billion in cuts."

Register with GEMS (Global Email Messaging System). Go to https://www.narfe.org/updaterecord/update_record.cfm and enter member ID# and DOB, and you will get NARFE HQ's vital weekly e-mail updates about federal activities; legislative alerts to use the "quick send" message to Congressional representatives and the President.

Express your views to Congressional and Administration leaders. It is easy if you use the Protect America's Heartbeat website. If you do not use the internet, express your views by personal letter or phone call.

Support candidates of your choice in both primary and general elections. Volunteer or offer funding for candidates' campaigns; contribute to NARFE PACs at state and federal levels, which support candidates whose philosophies (views) are aligned with NARFE's interests. (Continued on right column)

(Continued from left column)

REMINDER: We need your stories (powerful examples of important contributions by federal employees to the safety, security and welfare of the United States) about how your federal service Protected America's Heartbeat. When drafting your story, refer to the general guidelines in my PAH article in the September Chapter Newsletter (www.mdnarfe.org/chapter0581/newsletters). For help or questions contact me at rcdahlman@verizon.net. Thanks.

Directions to the Park View Building on the Asbury Methodist Village campus:

Enter the Asbury campus at the guard house at the intersection of Odendhal Avenue and Lost Knife Roads. Tell the guard you're attending NARFE Gaithersburg Chapter 581's luncheon and Legislators' Forum in the Park View Building. While on Asbury Drive, pass the first stop sign; pass the Edwards-Fisher Building, Rosborough Center on your right; turn right at the next stop sign; pass the Phyllis H. Kindley Building on your right. The next building is #221 Park View. There is limited handicapped and non-handicapped curb parking on the right just before Park View (please do not park in spaces with signs designating specific residents' parking). The main parking area is past Park View; enter the circle immediately in front of Park View, continue to the stop sign, and then straight ahead to the parking lot on the side behind Park View. Park View Building lobby signs will direct attendees to each event room—the 12:30 p.m. luncheon and the 1:15 p.m. Legislators' Forum for April 24th.

NARFE Chapter 581 Luncheon

April 24, 2012 Tuesday 12:30 p.m.

Parkview Building, Asbury Methodist Village

A delicious New York Style Deli buffet lunch!

Name(s) _____

Phone _____

No. Of Diners _____ @ \$14.00 each = \$ _____.00

Please make your check (to be **received** no later than Wednesday, April 18th) **payable to NARFE Chapter 581** and mail to:

Mr. Larry Lange
11210 White Barn Court
Gaithersburg, MD 20879-3146

Please mail your check no later than April 16th !

**Gaithersburg
Chapter 581**
19333 Dunbridge Way
Montgomery Village, MD
20886

NARFE Chapter 581 Newsletter
National Active and Retired Federal Employees
Chapter 581 Gaithersburg - Chartered December, 1956

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Silver Spring MD
Permit # 5715



Every Member Get A Member!
PROTECT YOUR RETIREMENT!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME VALUE MAIL!
PLEASE DO NOT HOLD.

Three important Websites

www.narfe.org
www.mdnarfe.org
www.mdnarfe.org/chapter0581



CHAPTER OFFICERS

Co-Presidents

John Padan, 301-869-0616

jpadan@comcast.net

Larry Lange, 301-972-6775

LLange3751@aol.com

1st Vice President

Joseph Martin

nitpam@aol.com

2nd Vice President

George Donovan

Treasurer

Larry Lange, 301-972-6775

LLange3751@aol.com

Recording Secretary

Marty Strombotne, 240-632-9881

martystrom@comcast.net

Financial Secretary

Donnie Sue Ferrell, 301-926-1361

KEY CONTACTS

Membership

Jim Short, 301-330-5084

j.short@comcast.net

Service Officer

Helen Berkson, 301-881-1168

“Protect America’s Heartbeat”

Captain, Chapter 581

Roger Dahlman, 301-977-2697

rcdahlman@gmail.com

**MDFed Federal Legislative Committee
& Deferred Annuity, Special Projects**

Jim Cowie, 301-515-3005

jamescowie@att.net

**MdFed State Legislative Committee &
United Seniors of Maryland Delegate**

Dave Roseman, 240-401-6628

dave.roseman@comcast.net

Mont. Co. Council of NARFE Chapters

Larry Lange

Program Planning

John Padan and Larry Lange

Asbury Liaison

Rocky Jones

Chaplain

Rev. Ken Jones

Community Affairs

Charles Ferrell, 301-926-1361

Fifty-Fifty

Bob Hoover

Sunshine Lady

Marty Strombotne

Greeters

Marty Piper

Rocky Jones

Newsletter Co-Editors

Larry Lange, 301-972-6775

Tom Kitchens,

tom@kitchens.de

Judy F. Bernstein, 301-251-1482

Newsletter Assembly

Marty Piper, 301-299-6519

Meredith Williams, 301-424-3323

NARFE-PAC Coordinator

Doug Newton, 301-869-2129

MD/PAC

Dave Roseman, 240-401-6628

dave.roseman@comcast.net

Web Master

Judy F. Bernstein, 301-251-1482

chjb23@verizon.net