



National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association
Gaithersburg Chapter 581

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

NOV/DEC 2014

Our Next Meeting

Friday, November 14th

Joint meeting with Bethesda/
Chevy Chase NARFE Chapter 258

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Mykonos Grill

121 Congressional Lane
Rockville, MD 20852

Other Upcoming Events

November 6th (Thursday)

- Newsletter Assembly
Edwards-Fisher Building
Asbury Methodist Village
9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

November 17th & 19th (Mon & Wed)

- Cong. Chris Van Hollen's
FEHB Forums
(see article in this newsletter)

November 20th (Thursday)

- Chapter 581 Board Meeting
Conley Hall, Trott Building
Asbury Methodist Village
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

December 13th (Saturday)

- Chapter 581 Holiday Party
Golden Bull Restaurant,
7 Dalamar St., Gaithersburg 20877
11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

December 15th (Monday)

- Deadline for submitting articles
for the January 2015 newsletter

January 8th (Thursday)

- Newsletter Assembly
Edwards-Fisher Building
Asbury Methodist Village
9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

January 22nd (Thursday)

- Chapter 581 Board Meeting
Conley Hall, Trott Building
Asbury Methodist Village
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

January 27th (Thursday)

- Chapter Meeting
Asbury Methodist Village

Please put these dates on your calendar

THREE IMPORTANT WEBSITES:

www.narfe.org • www.mdnarfe.org

[www.mdnarfe.org/chapter 0581](http://www.mdnarfe.org/chapter0581)

OUR NOVEMBER CHAPTER MEETING WILL BE A JOINT MEETING WITH BETHESDA CHEVY CHASE NARFE CHAPTER 258 AT MYKONOS GRILL IN ROCKVILLE, MD ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH

We will meet at the Mykonos Grill, 121 Congressional Avenue, Rockville, MD 20852 for our November Chapter meeting. Those wishing to have lunch before the meeting may arrive at 11:30 a.m.; the price for lunch is \$25.00, payable at the door (either by cash, or by check made out to "Mykonos Grill"). Those who may wish to only come for the meeting may arrive at 12:30 p.m. Our speaker will be Jennifer Malave, our BlueCross Blue Shield CareFirst representative, who will advise us of the changes for 2015 in the FEHBP program. Please plan to attend; as always, guests are welcome.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Charles Garfinkel

With Joe Martin's move to Orlando Florida during this past summer, I was appointed President of Chapter 581 in September and sworn in as President on October 7, 2014. I became a member of Chapter 581 in 2010 and elected 2nd Vice President in June 2013.

In the coming months, Chapter 581 will be focusing on merging with Chapter 258 Bethesda Chevy Chase. **A joint lunch meeting is scheduled for November 14th, at "Mykonos Grill" 121 Congressional Lane, Rockville, MD 20852. Cost for lunch is \$25 including tax and tip. The reception/registration starts at 11:30 am; lunch begins at 12 noon.** The speaker for the meeting is Jennifer Malave from Carefirst BlueCross and BlueShield. Jennifer will talk about Open Season and the BlueCross BlueShield programs after lunch. A business meeting will follow Jennifer's talk. Anyone planning on attending but not interested in the lunch, should arrive about 12:30 pm. There is ample free parking alongside and behind the restaurant. The closest Metro station to the restaurant is the Twinbrook station on the Red Line, about an 8 to 12 minute walk.

As the holiday seasons are fast approaching planning is under way for the Chapter's annual holiday party. As mentioned in October's newsletter, this year's party will again be at the Golden Bull restaurant, 7 Dalamar

Street, in Gaithersburg. It is scheduled for Saturday, December 13th, and will start at 11:30 am.

We will invite members of Chapter 258 Bethesda Chevy Chase to join the party. The restaurant requests that attendees select their entree when registering for the lunch. The reservation coupon is on page 3 of this Newsletter.

NARFE has extended its recruitment drive through December 31, 2014. The national incentives are as follows:

- Recruiter will receive \$10 for each new member, current or retired, who joins by December 31, 2014. Applications via mail, phone, or website must be received by the December 31, 2014, deadline.
- All September through December recruiters will be entered in a drawing, once for each new member they have recruited.
- A Kindle Fire tablet will be awarded to a recruiter selected from this pool.

The Maryland Federation will award an additional \$10 for each new member recruited. This is your opportunity to earn \$20 for each new member you recruit, plus a chance at the drawing for a Kindle Fire tablet.

Congressman Van Hollen has scheduled two Federal Employee Health Benefit Forums this year. Anyone considering changing their health insurance plan or making changes to their current plan during open season, November 10 through December 8, may want to attend a forum. The two FEHB Forums scheduled in cooperation with NARFE will be held Monday morning, 9 am to 11 am, November 17th, at Holiday Park Senior Center, 3950 Ferrara Drive, Wheaton, MD, and Wednesday evening, 7 pm to 9 pm, November 19th, at the Executive Office Building, 101 Monroe Street, Rockville, MD. Attending either Forum will give you the opportunity to talk with health insurance vendors to learn about individual plans. You can also attend the question and answer session with representatives from the Office of Personnel Management, NARFE, and the Consultant and Author, Washington Consumer Checkbook's *Guide to Health Plans for Federal Employees*.

The results of our Chapter's Program Satisfaction Survey conducted in May were received in September. We will be working on implementing some of the recommendations in the coming months.

GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES FORUM

John Padan, Asbury Liaison and Chapter Program Planner

There were many changes as the October 28 date of the planned gubernatorial debate approached. What emerged was very informative for the 40 to 50 persons who attended. Democratic candidate Anthony Brown was represented by Kumar Barve, Majority Leader of Maryland's House of Delegates; Republican candidate Larry Hogan was represented by Boyd Rutherford, his running mate. Each candidate spoke serially, generally in two minute responses to questions from the audience read by Moderator Dr. Richard Strombotne from this Chapter.

The audience was treated to an informative hour but audience size was a disappointment, especially because this forum was the result of cooperation and planning by Gaithersburg Chapter 581 and the Asbury Democratic and Republican Clubs.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Larry Lange, Treasurer

All Funds Summary, October 23, 2014

Checking Account	\$ 7,261.81
Certificate of Deposit (Restricted Chapter Life Membership funds)	\$ 2,476.71
TOTAL CHAPTER ASSETS	\$ 9,738.52
WORKING CAPITAL	\$ 7,261.81

CONGRESSMAN CHRIS VAN HOLLEN WILL HAVE 2 FEHB FORUMS IN NOV.

Congressman Chris Van Hollen will hold his 12th Annual Federal Employees Health Benefits Forums in cooperation with NARFE on Monday morning, November 17th from 9:00 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Holiday Park Senior Center, 3950 Ferrara Drive, Wheaton, MD 20906, and Wednesday evening, November 19th from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Executive Office Building, 101 Monroe Street, Rockville, MD 20850. These forums are always very informative concerning changes and updates in Federal Employees Health Benefits plans.

DECEMBER 13TH HOLIDAY PARTY RESERVATION

Saturday, December 13, 2014 • 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

GOLDEN BULL RESTAURANT • 7 Dalamar Street • Gaithersburg, MD 20877

Name(s) _____

No. of Diners _____ @ \$30.00 each = \$_____ .00

Please make a choice of ONE of the following entrees for each person:

_____ Chicken Marsala
in Wine Reduction w/Mushrooms

_____ Vegetarian Pasta Marinara

_____ Fresh Filet of Salmon
w/Dill Sauce

_____ Roast Prime Rib of Beef

Each meal will also include a garden salad, vegetable of the day, roasted red skin potatoes, rolls and butter, coffee, tea, or soda, and chocolate mousse for dessert. A cash bar will be available.

Please mail this Reservation Coupon with a check for the total amount (made out to NARFE Chapter 581) by December 5, 2014: Mr. Larry Lange • 11210 White Barn Court • Gaithersburg, MD 20879-3146

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

For the month of September, 2014 we gained three new members; one person transferred out of Chapter 581; four members were reinstated, and 24 members were dropped for non-renewal of their dues, for a net loss of 18 members:

Please welcome the following new members:

Kurt Kohn • Chiang Syin • Robert Wellek.

Please welcome back the following reinstated members: Barton Kuhns • Erasmia Lois •

John McCarthy • Allen Wolfe

For the last few months our Chapter has experienced a significant number of members each month who have dropped their NARFE membership. This is very troubling, on our Chapter 581 level, on the Maryland Federation level, and on the national level. If you know of a member who may have let his or her NARFE membership lapse, please encourage them to renew their membership. And, a gift membership in NARFE is always a great idea for either a current or retired federal employee who is a relative or friend. Why not ask your letter carrier if he or she is a NARFE member? If they're not, a NARFE membership would make a thoughtful holiday gift to them.

Often we are not notified of a member having passed away by their spouse or family, and may be so informed many months after that member's death.

We are very appreciative when other Chapter members and friends provide us this information.

THANKS TO THE OCTOBER NEWSLETTER ASSEMBLY GROUP

Thanks very much to the following nine members who helped insert the center page, fold, and apply address labels and wafer seals to our October newsletter on Thursday, October the 2nd. We couldn't have done it without you!

Dick Strombotne	Marty Strombotne
Larry Lange	Charlie Garfinkel
Marty Piper	Carl Erickson
Gene Oliver	Mike Hill
John Del Vecchio	

Please think about joining us the first Thursday of most months to help fold, and apply address labels and wafer seals to our monthly Chapter 581 newsletter. The more persons we have helping us, the quicker this task goes – not only is this a big help to your Chapter, but you get to chat with several fellow 581 members, and – it's a lot of fun. We do our newsletter assembly in the ground floor library of the Edwards-Fisher Building on the Asbury Methodist Village campus beginning at 9:30 a.m.

And *many thanks* to our great diligent *proof-readers!*

**Gaithersburg
Chapter 581**

20837 Scottsbury Drive
Germantown, MD
20876-4187

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

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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

President

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(Vacant)

2nd Vice President

(Vacant)

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Marty Strombotne, 240-632-9881
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KEY CONTACTS

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(Vacant)

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Committee & United Seniors of
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**Mont. Co. Council of NARFE
Chapters**

Larry Lange

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Larry Lange

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Fifty-Fifty

Marty Piper

Sunshine

Marty Strombotne

Greeters

Gene Oliver

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Newsletter Assembly

Marty Piper, 301-299-6519

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INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

Now that winter is here, please note if there is snow or other inclement weather on the day of our monthly Chapter meeting, we will follow the decision made by Montgomery County Schools (MCPS): *If Montgomery County Schools will be closed OR have a delayed opening due to inclement weather on the day of our monthly Chapter meeting, our meeting will be canceled.* This information is available very early on the day of our meeting on radio and TV news, and on the website for MCPS.