



NARFE BUZZ

Western Montgomery County Chapter 258 - Chartered November 10, 1953
National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association
(Formerly the Bethesda - Chevy Chase and Gaithersburg Chapters)

March 2016

Our Next Chapter Meeting – And Up Coming Events

Our Friday, March 11th chapter meeting will be at the Mykonos Grill, 121 Congressional Avenue, Rockville, MD; members who wish to come for lunch may arrive at 11:30 a.m., with the meal being served at 12:00 noon. The cost is \$25.00 per person, payable either in cash, or checks made out to “Mykonos Grill” (please, no credit cards). Those who do not wish to come for lunch may arrive at 1:00 p.m. Our speaker will be Mr. Sandy Adler, who will speak on “Keeping Seniors Safe.”



Monday, March 7th, Chapter Executive Board meeting, Ledo’s Restaurant, 10300 Westlake Drive, Bethesda, MD, 10:00 a.m.

Friday, March 11th, Chapter meeting, at the Mykonos Grill, Rockville, MD.

Monday, April 4th, Chapter Executive Board meeting, Ledo’s Restaurant, 10300 Westlake Drive, Bethesda, MD, 10:00 a.m.

Monday, April 4th and Tuesday, April 5th, NARFE Region II Training, Windham Hotel, York, PA.

Friday, April 8th, Chapter meeting, at the Mykonos Grill, Rockville, MD.

Saturday, April 9th, MD Federation Legislative Committee Senate Candidates’ Forum, Gwynn Oak, Maryland.

Monday, May 2nd and Tuesday, May 3rd, NARFE MD Federation Mini-Convention, Bowie, MD.

Monday, May 9th, Chapter Executive Board meeting, Ledo’s Restaurant, 10300 Westlake Drive, Bethesda, MD, 10:00 a.m.

Friday, May 13th, Chapter meeting, at the Mykonos Grill, Rockville, MD.

President’s Corner

Charles Garfinkel

I am asking Chapter members to call or write their Legislators to request that they support Governor Hogan’s proposal to increase the exemption amount under State income tax (from \$1,000 to \$5,000, over a four year period) for those individuals that are at least 65 on the last day of the year. The two bills are HB 455 for the House of Delegates and SB 387 for the Senate. The toll free telephone number is 1-800-492-7122. (See Dave Richman’s article in this Newsletter.)

Our speaker for our March 11, 2016, Chapter meeting will be a representative from “*Keeping Seniors Safe*,” Sandy Adler. Mr. Adler will talk about senior vulnerabilities to scams and fraud and what they can and should do to minimize their exposure. He will also provide some information about the agencies you need to inform if you believe you have been a victim of fraud or identity theft.

Mark your calendars. On Saturday, April 9, 2016, the NARFE Maryland Federation, Legislative Committee, will host a *Senate Candidates’ Forum* at the Woodlawn Senior Center in Gwynn Oak, Maryland. Candidates running for the Senate seat of retiring Barbara Mikulski have been invited to speak and answer questions. If you are not registered to vote please do so, and remember primary election day is April 26, 2016.

NARFE is reporting that the President’s budget proposal for the 2017 fiscal year was more favorable to the Federal community. For our active employee members the budget proposes a 1.6 percent increase, an improvement over last

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year's 1.3 percent. It also calls for six weeks of paid parental leave for Federal employees for the birth of their child, or the adoption or placement of a foster child. It should be noted that this is a policy NARFE and other organizations have been advocating.

For retirees, the items included in the proposal may only benefit a small number of our members. The budget includes funding for increased staffing in the Retirement Services Center of the Office of Personnel Management to respond to customer inquiries. The proposal did not include any cuts to the Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA). This means that workers suffering job-related illnesses or injuries may not see their benefits reduced once they reach retirement age.

At the February meeting, the speaker, Tom Glenn, talked about his time in South Vietnam and mainly his final year in Saigon. Tom worked for the National Security Agency (NSA) as an undercover signal intelligence operative. His mission during 1974 and 1975 was as an advisor to the American Ambassador on intelligence and also assisted the Government of South Vietnam. He spoke of his efforts during the last year of the war in assuring that all of the 43 subordinates that worked for him and their family members were able to leave the country. He indicated that the American Ambassador did not believe the evidence from intercepted North Vietnamese communications that an assault from the North was imminent. The Vietnam years still resonate with the veterans, some suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and alcoholism. Tom also talked about his work with veterans: some are AIDS patients, others are homeless, and his efforts in caring for the dying in the hospice system. Tom has written three books and 16 short stories mostly on the war and Vietnam.

Registration for the 2016 Region II Training Symposium in York, Pennsylvania, April 4-5, 2016, must be made by March 24, 2016. The cost is \$80. Lodging reservations at the Wyndham Garden Hotel [717/846-9500] must be made by March 5, 2016 to get the rate for NARFE attendees. The room costs are \$97.01 per night (single or double). Anyone interested in attending, please contact a Board member to obtain the registration information.

Membership Report

Dick Strombotne, Membership Chair
DickS.narfe@comcast.net

Chapter 258 Membership For Period
9 January to 15 February 2016

New Members.

Walter Moskwa and Lillian Patrician.

Welcome Back These Reinstated Members.

Earl A Gershenow, Brooks C Goldman, Richard Lasner, Edward A Lostoski, Dorothy Moore, Eileen O'Connor, Arlyne Sher, and Clinton Wolcott.

Deceased Members.

Bobbie S Malmi and Gene F Wilson.

If you know any of the dropped members listed below, do them a service and invite them to rejoin NARFE.

Members Dropped in January and February.

Gertrude Bass, Thomas H Bodmer, Margaret H Bradford, Roger L Burkhart, Susan L David, Edward P Dillon, Robert B Dollison, Willard Evans, Thomas Jackson, Shelton A Jackson, Fred A Kahn, Rose B Kaplan, Mohini Kaushik, Kurt Kohn, Richard W L Italien, Milton H Liner, Louis Lombardo, Loraine J McDonnell, Wallace G Nelson, Barry Piatt, Douglas G Redding, Randi Robinson, Diane C Ruesch, Richard E Titlow, Richard Weiss, and Gary L Williams.

Chapter Statistics:

Western Montgomery Chapter 258 has 1,515 voting members, as of the end of January, including 131 Life members, 33 Honorary members, and 182 members on dues-withholding. Current federal employee members total 234.

Treasurer's Report

Larry Lange, Treasurer

Chapter 258, Funds Summary, February 8, 2016:

Checking Account	\$ 12,767.31
Certificate of Deposit (Restricted	
Chapter Life Membership funds)	\$ 2,477.04
TOTAL CHAPTER 258 ASSETS	\$ 15,244.35
WORKING CAPITAL, Chapter 258	\$ 12,767.31

Information on Contacting the Governor and Legislators to Support Governor Hogan’s Proposed Increased Tax Exemption for Seniors

Dave Richman and Dick Strombotne

Governor Hogan has proposed a budget for this coming year that includes an increase in the income tax exemption for taxpayers and their spouses age 65 and above from \$1,000 to \$5,000 phased in over a four-year period starting in 2017. This increased exemption is being proposed in two bills being presented to the General Assembly, Senate Bill 387 and House Bill 455. Committee hearings in the Senate and House are set for February 24th and 25th respectively. The NARFE Maryland Federation supports this proposal. It will be of benefit to not only NARFE retirees but to many others in our state’s growing senior population. It will also benefit our state’s economy. The increased consumerism created by this tax reduction will meaningfully reduce some of the state’s loss in tax revenue created by the tax exemption increase.

It is important to NARFE that our members let our legislators and the Governor’s administration know of our support of this proposal. We urge you to contact them with your support for these bills. NARFE’s Maryland State Legislative Committee has a website with information and tools that can be used to assist NARFE members to reach out to their legislators in Annapolis. A search for www.MDNARFE.org will bring you to the site with that information. On the right side of that page, click on Legislative – State Page. Clicking on the underlined “sample” items will make them available to you; they can be used directly or as a basis for your particular message.

The e-mail address for Governor Hogan is governor.mail@maryland.gov. To get information about your senators or legislators, search the web for www.mgaleg.maryland.gov and click on [Legislators](#) in the blue tabs at the top of the page. This gives you a list of every senator and legislator with access to information about each of them. If you click on the name of the individual you want to contact it will give you his/her address, phone number and current assignment. Instead of pressing the individual’s name, pressing the contact’s box in his/her name row gives you an alternative means to submit a 1,500 “character” word message to your representative.

Act promptly to contact your legislators in Annapolis and let them know your position on the bills. Using the toll-free number for the General Assembly switchboard (1-800-492-7122), ask to be transferred to your legislator’s extension. When the legislative aide answers just give your name and state your position on Bill HB455/SB387.

Chapter 258 Budget For 2016

Larry Lange, Chapter Treasurer

A Chapter budget for calendar year 2016 had been drafted at a meeting at Gordon Brown’s condo on January 14th (attended by Charlie Garfinkel, Gordon Brown, and myself). At our Chapter meeting on February the 12th, I had copies available of my monthly Treasurer’s report, covering the period from January 5, 2016 to February 8, 2016, which incorporated these budget figures. This 2016 budget was approved by the members present at the February 12th meeting:

<i>Receipts</i>	Dues	\$ 11,500.00
	Recruiting Awards	0
	50/50	0
	Donations and Miscellaneous	0
	Federation Assistance	0
	Luncheons	0
	Pass Thorough Income	0
	Bank Interest	0
	Total	\$ 11,500.00
<i>Expenses</i>	Bank Charges	20.00
	Newsletter *	12,240.00
	Administrative costs	250.00
	Recruitment/Retention	100.00
	MD Federation Dues	750.00
	Programs	0
	Sunshine	100.00
	Miscellaneous	50.00
	United Seniors of MD Dues	50.00
	Convention Ads	250.00
	Nat’l Convention Fund	
	(\$150.00 “set aside” each month)	1,800.00
	Convention Attend./Train. Support	400.00
	Mileage	50.00
	Luncheons	200.00
	Pass Through Expenses	0
	Total	\$ 16,260.00

* This figure includes all work done by Print1: arrangement of articles, printing, applying recipients’ addresses, applying wafer seals, and taking the newsletter to the Shady Grove bulk mail facility. It also includes monthly postage, plus setting up a fund for postage the Chapter has to pay on newsletters that are returned by the Post Office as undeliverable.

Western Montgomery County Chapter 258
 National Active and Retired Federal Employees
 20837 Scottsbury Drive
 Germantown, MD 20876-4187

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**Our speaker for the March 11th Chapter meeting
 will be Mr. Sandy Adler, who will speak on
 "Keeping Seniors Safe"**

Chapter Officers		Committee Chairs		Awards	
President Charles Garfinkel garfinkc@verizon.net	301-972-0183	Public Relations Suzanne Ackerman suzword@gmail.com	301-588-6206	Gordon Brown papabrown26@verizon.net	240-328-6926
1 st Vice President Allan Kam akam@htsassociates.com	301-469-0352	Newsletter Larry Lange llange3751@aol.com	301-972-6775	United Seniors of Maryland Dave Roseman dave.roseman@comcast.net	240-401-6628
2 nd Vice President Gordon Brown papabrown26@verizon.net	240-328-6926	Suzanne Ackerman suzword@gmail.com	301-588-6206	Membership Dick Strombotne DickS.narfe@comcast.net	240-632-9881
Secretary Marty Strombotne martystrom@comcast.net	240-632-9881	Judy Welles judywelles@verizon.net	301-229-8110	Alzheimer's George Perez George.E.Perez@gmail.com	
Treasurer Larry Lange llange3751@aol.com	301-972-6775	Federal Legislation David Richman dmr0313@aol.com	301-770-3608	Congressional Delegation Senator Barbara A. Mikulski 202-2245-4654	
Service Officer Helen Berkson	301-881-1168	State Legislation Dave Roseman dave.roseman@comcast.net	240-401-6628	Senator Benjamin L. Cardin 202-224-4524	
		Programs Charles Garfinkel garfinkc@verizon.net	301-972-0183	Representative Chris Van Hollen, Jr. 202-225-5341	
		Allan Kam akam@htsassociates.com	301-469-0352	Representative John Delaney 202-225-2721	