



# 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)*

February 2017

## Our Next Chapter Meeting – And Upcoming Events

Our Friday, February 10th 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 Paul Schwartz, Chair of Maryland NARFE's State Legislative Committee, who will speak on Maryland NARFE's 2017 state legislative agenda.

.....  
PLEASE NOTE: If Montgomery County Public Schools either have a delayed opening or are closed due to inclement weather on the day of either our Chapter Board meeting OR our Chapter membership meeting, that meeting will be cancelled.

.....  
**Chapter Executive Board meeting, Monday, February 6th,** Ledo's Pizza, 10300 Westlake Drive, Bethesda, MD, 10:00 a.m.

**Maryland Federation Board Meeting, Tuesday, February 7th,** Comfort Inn, Bowie, MD, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

**February Chapter meeting, Friday, February 10th,** at the Mykonos Grill, 121 Congressional Avenue, Rockville, MD.

**Chapter Executive Board meeting, Monday, March 6th,** Ledo's Pizza, 10300 Westlake Drive, Bethesda, MD, 10:00 a.m.

**March Chapter meeting, Friday, March 10th,** will be at the Mykonos Grill, 121 Congressional Avenue, Rockville, MD.

**2017 NARFE Legislative Training Conference,** March 12th - 15th, Hilton Mark Center, Alexandria, VA.

**MD Federation's Biennial State Convention,** April 30 to May 2, Holiday Inn, Oceanfront, Ocean City, MD.

**Chapter Executive Board meeting, Monday, April 10th,** Ledo's Pizza, 10300 Westlake Drive, Bethesda, MD, 10:00 a.m.

**April Chapter meeting, Friday, April 14th,** will be at the Mykonos Grill, 121 Congressional Avenue, Rockville, MD.

## AARP FREE INCOME TAX PREPARATION ASSISTANCE

AARP is offering free income tax preparation assistance for seniors in Montgomery County. Call 240-777-2577 (Mondays through Fridays, 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.) to make an appointment (which should be made by March 1st). For a list of the locations, times, and bus routes that serve each location, go to [www.montgomeryserves.org/sites/default/files/taxaideflyer](http://www.montgomeryserves.org/sites/default/files/taxaideflyer). This web site will also have a list of the documents and information to bring with you.

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

*Charles Garfinkel*

I want to thank Chapter members who provided their e-mail addresses allowing us to reduce the number of paper copies of the *NARFE BUZZ* we were ordering and mailing. Prior to January 2017, the Chapter was ordering about 1,500 copies. For the January 2017 *NARFE BUZZ*, the Chapter reduced its ordered to 683 and mailed about 663. About 800 e-copies were sent to members and other recipients. For actual dollar savings, the Chapter is awaiting the invoice from the printer. Savings in postage was about \$99.

The Chapter will be using a new printer for the February *NARFE BUZZ*. This printer currently does the Maryland Federation Newsletter. We anticipate some further savings with the new printer.

**For the January 13th** meeting the speaker was Noelle Heyman, Chair, Montgomery County Commission on Aging. Ms. Heyman indicated that in 2015 a meeting was held and 400 people came together to talk about gaps and problems with programs affecting seniors in the County. The Commission lobbies and advocates for seniors in the County. The Commission's commitment to older adults will include a policy against ageism (stereotyping). Older adults can be a valuable resource in planning programs for older adults. Noelle stated that transportation is a problem in the County. A coordinator was hired to work with service providers in resolving the transportation issues. Having shelters available at all bus stops has resolved some safety and weather issues.

(Continues pg. 2)

She also indicated that some seniors are not able to be active in the County's Senior Centers. The Commission is looking at a program to solve this problem.

Noelle stated that affordable health care is limited for the frail elderly, especially oral health care. Communicating programs that help seniors is very important, such as signs on buses and in stores.

Subsequent to the meeting, Ms. Heyman provided information on a County Partnership with a National Association of Counties (NACo) program to provide Low-Fee Dental and Select Health Services. This program is part of the NACo's Live Healthy Program that provides discounts to residents for low fee dental, vision services, hearing aids and screening, diabetes supplies and more. For Information on the Live-Healthy program go to [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/live-healthy](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/live-healthy).

Ms. Heyman provided information about actions to take if he/she receives a threatening phone call to send money to the IRS via Western Union, Moneygram, etc. It is a scam. The IRS will never call you! If you receive such a call, hang up and dial 301-279-8000 to report the threat to the Montgomery County Police Department.

**Maryland Federation Meeting:** The NARFE Federation Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 7, 2017, at the Comfort Inn in Bowie. Anyone interested in attending should notify a Chapter Board member or Marty Strombotne. The Chapter will pay the \$20.00 registration fee for members attending.

**Our speaker for the February 10, 2017,** meeting will be Paul Schwartz, Chair, NARFE's Maryland Federation's State Legislative Committee. Paul will talk about the Federation's 2017 State Legislative Program (SLP), and what grass-roots support we as Chapter members have to give to make our legislators aware that the SLP is important to us as Maryland residents and that we will consider the actions by the Legislators in supporting the SLP program.

**Threats to the earned pay and benefits** of federal employees and retirees have never been greater now that the 115th Congress has convened. The *2017 NARFE Legislative Training Conference* will be held Sunday, March 12, through Wednesday, March 15, at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center in Alexandria, VA. It includes training, national speakers and the opportunity to network with fellow NARFE grass-roots activists. The conference culminates in a visit to Capitol Hill, where you will meet with your legislators. If anyone is

interested in serving as the Chapter's Federal Legislative Officer and is not sure how to fulfill this role or if you are interested in learning more about NARFE's legislative priorities, this Legislative Training Conference may be for you. Please let a Board Member (see p. 4) know if you are interested.

**NARFE Federal Benefits Institute** is presenting a webinar for current Federal employees planning to retire in a few years on January 26, at 2 p.m. This 60-minute program, *Speeding the Retirement Journey*, will assist employees in avoiding delays in receiving a full annuity due to missing documentation or other errors. The program will be recorded and within 48 hours of the broadcast will be available for review on the NARFE website without registration.

**This is the time of year when a number** of our members leave the area either for a few weeks or months. To ensure that those members receiving a paper copy of the newsletter (NL) continue to receive their NL, as well as reduce the cost of handling returned newsletters, members with e-mail addresses can request the newsletter be delivered electronically while they are away, or provide their temporary address to a member of the Board. Your membership is important to the Chapter. So, don't miss the newsletter.

Also, for those members making a permanent move, please provide your new address to NARFE, either at 606 N. Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314, or call Member Records at (1-800-456-8410), or login to the NARFE website ([www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org)). Click on *Update My Records* (Under: *What you can do online*) and follow the instructions. A password is needed.

## **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

*Dick Strombotne, Membership Chair*

*DickS.narfe@comcast.net*

### **Dues Withholding – Retirees Only**

Retired members have a payment option that saves money, time, and effort. It is dues withholding and you can sign up anytime; it goes into effect on your anniversary date. You save 15% of national dues (\$6.00) each year. There is a monthly deduction from your annuity payment, just like your current federal and state income tax deductions and your FEHB payments. Just fill out and send in the application form in your copy of NARFE magazine. Treat yourself. [Reprinted from January 2017 newsletter.]

**Chapter 258 Membership For Period  
13 December 2016 to 15 January 2017**

**Welcome to New Member –**  
Daniel Pasquale

**Welcome Back These Reinstated Members Since  
January 2017 –**  
Theresa G Barlow, Linda Carter, Marsha F Crowley, Richard J Feldmann, Andrew C Millunzi, and William J Whitten.

**Deceased Members –**  
Wolfgang K Haller and Bernard T Resnick.

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

**Members Dropped in January 2017 –**  
Janet Blizzard, Mary Corkery, John A Croarkin, James Curry, Marilyn A Dick, Robert Hofman, Martin Kulik, Val A Lubbers, Frank C Martino, Sara Mathew, Charlotte Naschinski, Brian Peper, David M Sims, Victoria Welch, and David Wiegand.

**REPORT ON THE CURRENT ACTIVITIES OF THE  
STATE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE (SLC)**  
*Dave Richman*

The 2017 Maryland General Assembly meeting began on January 11th. It will last through April 10. The SLC supports two major initiatives: one - To make Maryland the top retirement choice for Marylanders – and others as well, and two – Provide a Long Term Care insurance incentive to reduce the state medical burden. But our major concern and hope is that two bills introduced during the General Assembly last year, bills supporting a proposal of Governor Hogan, to increase an income tax exemption for 65-year-old and older seniors from \$1,000 to \$5,000 increasing by \$1,000 annually, will be reintroduced. Modifications in the Senate last year altered the proposal by modifying its objective to include some business tax reductions; the bills failed to be passed. We hope they will be reintroduced this year. Barring that, we will certainly be supporting bills that will achieve tax relief or other benefits for seniors in this coming or future years.

It is our intention to follow the activities underway in Annapolis and maintain information about bills of interest to us and to YOU. This includes key reasons for us to support bills that we view as important for us and dates for hearings on them. The current plan is for this bill information to be at [www.mdnarfe.org](http://www.mdnarfe.org) .

We need our members to write, e-mail and/or telephone their elected representatives about such bills to make clear to our elected representatives that we are an organization for them to pay attention to. The January issue of the BUZZ had information on contacting them. It was: go online and type in [www.maryland.gov](http://www.maryland.gov) and hit enter. Then click on General Assembly; then click on legislators. Now click on “who represents me.” This will ask for your address and zip code. Enter that and click again. This will give you a listing of your state representatives. It also gives you a place to click that says “create a message.” Use the bill information source above to send your message.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**  
*Larry Lange, Treasurer*

Chapter 258, Funds Summary, January 9, 2017

Checking Account balance, 11/8/16	\$ 10,988.86
Receipts, 11/8/16 - 1/9/17	\$ 2,608.54
Expenses, 11/8/16 - 1/9/17	\$ 1,158.23
Checking Account balance, 1/9/17	\$ 12,439.17
Working Capital/Total Chapter assets	\$ 12,439.17



At our January 13th Chapter meeting, 258 member Judy Welles (center) presents our speaker, Noelle Heyman, a copy of the book Judy wrote, “Lilly Stone.” On the right is Chap. 258 president Charlie Garfinkel.

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

NON-PROFIT  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
SUBURBAN, MD  
PERMIT #5715

Return Service Requested

**THIS IS YOUR CHAPTER 258 NEWSLETTER**  
**PLEASE READ !! ☺**

**The speaker at our February 10th Chapter meeting will be  
Mr. Paul Schwartz, Chair of Maryland NARFE's state  
Legislative Committee, who will speak on Maryland  
NARFE's 2017 state Legislative agenda.**

### Chapter Officers

#### President

**Charles Garfinkel** 301-972-0183  
garfinkc@verizon.net

#### 1st Vice President

**Allan Kam** 301-469-0352  
akam@htsassociates.com

#### 2nd Vice President

**Gordon Brown** 240-328-6926  
papabrown26@verizon.net

#### Secretary

**Marty Strombotne** 240-632-9881  
martystrom@comcast.net

#### Treasurer

**Larry Lange** 301-972-6775  
llange3751@aol.com

#### Service Officer

**Helen Berkson** 301-881-1168

Gov. Hogan's e-mail is [governor.mail@maryland.gov](mailto:governor.mail@maryland.gov). Your legislators may be reached at [www.mgaleg.maryland.gov](http://www.mgaleg.maryland.gov); they may also be reached using the General Assembly's number, 1(800) 492-7122

### Committee Chairs

#### Public Relations

**Suzanne Ackerman** 301-588-6206  
suzword@gmail.com

#### Newsletter

**Larry Lange** 301-972-6775  
llange3751@aol.com

#### Judy Welles

301-229-8110  
judywelles@verizon.net

#### Federal Legislation (Vacant)

#### State Legislation

**Dave Roseman** 240-401-6628  
dave.roseman@comcast.net

**Dave Richman** 301-770-3608  
dmr0313@aol.com

#### Programs

**Charles Garfinkel** 301-972-0183  
garfinkc@verizon.net

**Allan Kam** 301-469-0352  
akam@htsassociates.com

### Awards

**Gordon Brown** 240-328-6926  
papabrown26@verizon.net

### United Seniors of Maryland

**Dave Roseman** 240-401-6628  
dave.roseman@comcast.net

### Membership

**Dick Strombotne** 240-632-9881  
DickS.narfe@comcast.net

### Alzheimer's

**George Perez**  
George.E.Perez@gmail.com

### Congressional Delegation

Senator Chris Van Hollen, Jr.  
202-224-4654

Senator Benjamin L. Cardin  
202-224-4524

Representative Jamie Raskin  
202-225-5341

Representative John Delaney  
202-225-2721