



NATIONAL ACTIVE and RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES TIDEWATER NEWS

Maryland Federation of Chapters
TIDEWATER CHAPTER 1372



Published by Pixel Print & Post

May 2017

*NARFE – the only membership organization solely dedicated to protecting and preserving benefits of **ALL** federal workers and retirees.*



President's Message

Gerry Phillips

Well, we are finally starting to get some nice spring weather and I hope everyone is getting out to enjoy it. Our April chapter meeting at the VFW in Grasonville went very well. Our speaker Jody Simmons gave a fine presentation on The Village Movement. Hopefully, members got some information to help them or their family members remain in their own homes as they get older. This movement has been growing on the Eastern Shore for the last year or two.

I want to thank Jean and John Sadler for taking reservations for our meetings, Shirley Smentkowski and Sara Donaldson for checking members in and George Hynson for selling the 50-50 tickets. Congratulations to John Ward on winning the 50-50 and to Carol O'Brien on winning the \$50 Monthly Raffle.

Reminder that tickets for the new \$50 Monthly Raffle starting in September will go on sale at the June picnic and will be in the June newsletter. There are still two chances to win this go round—May and June.

Remember to donate to our PACs if possible as we need all the help we can get from supported legislators to keep our benefits as they stand.

Hope to have a good turnout for our May meeting at Chesapeake Landing

Restaurant; see article for lunch selections and directions.



Legislative Updates

By Carol Chisholm, Vice President
for Legislation

Maryland General Assembly

The General Assembly concluded the day before our April NARFE meeting and immediately we began seeing our legislators locally. Senator Addie Hatch was seen doing a meet and greet at the Oxford Day parade, and Johnny Mautz made the rounds to gather support for clean bay initiatives and jobs for the Easton shore. Boyd Rutherford made it to the shore as well. So as you see the decision makers, consider introducing yourself as a NARFE member and concerned federal worker or retiree. Keeping us in the minds of the decision makers is a good thing!

U.S. Congress

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) just issued a government reform plan, titled "Comprehensive Plan for Reforming the Federal Government and Reducing the Federal Civilian Workforce." The President had issued an executive order directing OMB to submit a comprehensive plan to reorganize executive branch departments and agencies, and the presidential memorandum that imposed the hiring freeze, which called

for OMB to produce a long-term plan to reduce the size of the federal workforce. The long-term plan issued, the federal hiring freeze is over. The government-wide reform plan will be proposed as part of the president's fiscal year 2019 budget. The memo asks agencies to: eliminate, restructure and merge activities; improve organizational efficiency; and revamp workforce management to improve performance, increase accountability and reduce costs through avenues such as long-term workforce reductions.

Congressional approval will be required for many aspects of this plan, including eliminating programs and implementing restructuring and merging of agencies. Other aspects of the plan, such as those aimed at improving efficiency and workforce management, may not require congressional approval, but must operate within existing personnel law. Agencies also may have significant flexibility regarding workforce reductions, if they do not conflict with congressional appropriations. The White House confirmed this week that it will propose a 1.9 percent pay increase for current civilian federal employees for 2018. The pay raise will be included in the president's detailed fiscal year 2018 budget, set to be released in May. Traditionally, Congress has deferred to the president's proposed pay increase. While the formula for the raise pleases NARFE, our position is that the president and Congress should pursue a more robust

increase given the years of below-market increases and pay freezes.

OMB is seeking public input on the reforms. NARFE strongly encourages its members to comment to tell OMB what is *right* with government – what ought to be maintained and preserved in this process. If you have good, constructive ideas for improvements based on your personal experience, provide those as well.

Public Service Recognition Week (PSRW), which has been celebrated since 1985, is May 7-13! Join NARFE, an annual sponsor, in thanking public servants who have dedicated their lives to the public good. NARFE members are encouraged to submit and customize a letter to the editor to their local newspaper recognizing the great work that federal employees do for our country. Share your story of service in the personalization section of the letter to raise awareness of the importance of public service in everyday life.

(Information above from the Legislative Hotline. To get these emails for yourself call 877-217-8234 with your request.)

Information from the March Legislative Conference I unfortunately had to miss indicates the critical issues for retirees and active federal workers were considered. Jessica Klement, NARFE legislative director, said the extreme polarization on the hill does not bode well for NARFE members. Federal employees are easy targets so we must keep our message before our legislators. Rep. Anthony Brown, D-MD, who was Governor O'Malley's lieutenant governor indicated the current clamor to reduce government threatens functions like disease research, environmental protection, and food inspections. Other speakers concurred.

A strategy congressional leaders may use is the budget reconciliation, which is a fast-track process that can be used to enact considerable budget changes. It can be used as a deficit reduction measure by cutting such programs as pensions for active and retired feds. You are urged to contact your representatives from the NARFE Legislation Action Center to urge changing the annual calculation for COLA to the CPI-E (Consumer Price Index for the Elderly) if you believe this year's .3% COLA is inadequate.

Stay vigilant and involved!



Join Us at Chesapeake Landing on May 10!

The May Chapter Meeting will be on Wednesday, May 10 at Chesapeake Landing (on MD 33 west of St Michaels); speaker to be determined.

Meal choices are: Broiled Crab Cake, Shrimp Salad Platter, Grilled Chicken Breast, Broiled Flounder or Fried Shrimp. Meals include coleslaw, potato salad; dessert choice of rice pudding or bread pudding and drink choice of coffee, tea and soda. The cost is \$23 (includes tax and gratuity).

Directions: From Easton go west on MD 33 and through St Michaels. Chesapeake Landing is on the left about 2 miles west of St Michaels.

For reservations contact Jean Sadler at 410-827-9397 or jeansadler40@verizon.net no later than Saturday, May 6. No cancellations after Sunday, May 7, please. If you do not cancel in a timely fashion or do not attend, you are still responsible for payment.

Current, lapsed and prospective members are invited to attend along with their guests.



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www.Facebook.com/NARFEchapter1372.

Visit our page and like us! Also see us at www.NARFE.org/chapter1372

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

April 30-May 2 – MD Federation Convention – Ocean City, MD

May 10 – Chapter Meeting – Chesapeake Landing, McDaniels, MD

June 14 – End-of-Year Picnic – Tuckahoe State Park

July, August – Summer Break – No Meetings

September 13 – Chapter Meeting – Place TBA

Excellent Presentation Highlight of April Meeting

By Shirley Smentkowski, Secretary

The April Chapter meeting was held at the Grasonville VFW with 27 members present.

Jody Simmons from the Queen Anne's County Department of Social Services was the guest speaker. She gave a presentation on "The Village Movement" which Queen Anne's County is in the process of getting up and running. The Movement is a volunteer based, non-profit organization designed to help the aging population remain in their homes as long as possible. Those who need their services must become a member and pay an annual fee from \$250 - \$300.



Jody Simmons, Queen Anne's County Social Services

Legislation Vice President Carol Chisholm urged everyone to contact their Congressmen often and let them know what your views are on issues. Also call the Legislative Action Center at 1-866-220-0044 and sound off about your concerns.

Ernestine Kepley reported 230 members, 2 prospective members, and 1 reinstatement. Russell Abel was in attendance after being absent for 4-5 years.

The next Chapter meeting is May 10 at Chesapeake Landing. The Picnic is June 14 at Tuckahoe Park Lake Pavilion.

Due to the Chapter's email being hacked, the membership voted to have email addresses omitted from the Newsletter.

John Ward won the 50/50 drawing and Carol O'Brien won the \$50 raffle.

The new \$50 raffle tickets will go on sale at the June picnic. Tickets will be in the June newsletter.



President Gerry Phillips thanks Jody Simmons for her enlightening presentation about the Village Movement—an aging-in-place program modeled after the program in Tablot County--that she is hoping to develop in Queen Anne's County. She is looking for volunteers to serve on the planning committee. For more information, please contact her at 410-758-8032 or email her at jody.simmons@maryland.gov.



Vice President for Legislation Carol Chisholm reported the progress (or lack thereof) made by the Maryland General Assembly and the results of her meetings with Senators and Congressmen. See the secretary's summary for information on contacting the Legislative Action Center.

Chapter 1372 Executive Board

Gerald Phillips, President.....	410-274-0203
Evelyn Kirby, NEB; Region II Vice President.....	410-604-1141
Helen Wallace, Past President.....	410-643-9763
Carol Chisholm, Vice President for Legislation.....	410-745-9210
Ernestine Kepley, Vice President for Membership.....	410-924-7656
Shirley Smentkowski, Secretary.....	410-490-0273
Renee Abell, Treasurer.....	301-787-1101
Bob Hardy, Program Chair.....	410-827-8572
Jean Sadler, Newsletter Editor; Social Media Coordinator; Webmaster.....	410-827-9397
John Sadler, Badge Coordinator; Raffle Chair.....	410-827-9397

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE APRIL MEETING AT THE GRASONVILLE VFW



The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence to remember our Armed Services folks.



Lunch and a presentation about "The Village Movement" was followed by a brief business meeting. Region Vice President Evelyn Kirby reported on NARFE issues. Below, Vice President for Membership Ernestine Kepley gave her membership report. Member John Ward displays his 50/50 raffle winnings!

