



Website: www.narfe.org/chapter422

Chapter 422 office hours: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays NOON to 3 PM

Location: Laurel-Beltsville Senior Activity Center, 7120 Contee Rd, Laurel

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FOR NOVEMBER 2017

1. New Maryland Federation President, Dr. Gary Roundtree, sent a letter to the Maryland Governor Larry Hogan thanking him for his support in trying to bring tax relief to Maryland's seniors and retirees. Although the legislation did not pass during the 2016 legislative session and was not reintroduced for the 2017 session, Dr. Roundtree pledged his support for any future efforts to bring tax relief to retirees and seniors.
2. All chapter Bylaws must be in synch with National Bylaws. As mentioned during our last chapter meeting, we will need to update the Chapter 422 Bylaws to ensure compliance. This will include deleting all text relating to delegates and proxies for voting on National or Federation Bylaws issues. This decision was made at the 2016 Reno National Convention. Our Board members will review chapter Bylaws and National Bylaws and determine revisions needed. Chapter members may also submit suggestions for Bylaws changes to Board members. (An easy-to-use template for chapter Bylaws changes is at <http://www.narfe.org>)
3. The U.S. Postal Service will release a new Alzheimer's disease stamp in November. The stamp will cost \$0.60, 11 cents more than standard first-class postage. Proceeds from the stamp will go to the Department of Health and Human Services to fund Alzheimer's disease research. The stamp was approved after the hard work of NARFE Frederick Chapter 409 member Kathy Siggins. See story at the link above.
4. **Veterans Eat Free** on Veterans Day, Saturday, Nov. 11, 2017, 11 a.m., at Mission BBQ, Laurel Towne Centre, 14712 Baltimore Ave, Laurel, MD 20707. As a small gesture of appreciation, all Veterans and Active Duty Military Personnel in attendance are served a free sandwich (drinks not included). All attendees sing the National Anthem at noon. There will be honored guests and military vehicles on display.

Chapter Meetings for November and December 2017:

- Nov. 1, A presentation on "Alternative Therapies That Work" by Lou Stevens, R.N., of Optimum Health and Wellness. The meeting will be from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
- December 6 will be the Holiday Luncheon beginning at 11:30 a.m. Al Roda will again entertain us with Holiday songs and quizzes. Luncheon cost is \$16 and the menu will be announced later. Please make check payable to NARFE Chapter 422 and send to Bob Ridgway, 3122 Gracefield Rd., Apt. CT-207, Silver Spring, MD 20904.

BARBARA HEMMING, PRESIDENT

Legislative Update (Pat Farmer)

At the Oct. 3 NARFE/MD Board Meeting, NARFE Legislative Director Jessica Klement provided the following: **Recent Accomplishments:** Federal retirees have not paid for deficit reduction; Prevention of 52 percent increase in Medicare Part B premiums in 2016; Two-year budget deal did not impact Feds; Flawed postal bills have not passed; Extended identity protection for those impacted by OPM data breaches; Provided substantive reforms to Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program (FLTCIP). **Threats:** Eliminate COLAs for FERS retirees; Reduce COLAs by 0.5 percent for CSRS retirees; Increase retirement contributions for FERS by 1 percent per year for six (6) years; Eliminate FERS annuity supplement; High-3 to high-5 for future retirees; Turning FEHBP into a voucher program; Decreasing rate of return on TSP's G Fund; FEHBP premiums in retirement based on years of service; Elimination of FERS for new hires; 10 percent reduction of workforce. **115th Congress:** Stakes are higher. Maintaining current benefits should be considered a victory!

NARFE

**National Active and Retired
Federal Employees Association
Laurel Chapter 422
13304 Briarwood Drive
Laurel, MD 20708**

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MEETING – Oct. 4**

MEMBERSHIP REPORT - David Walser, Membership Officer

As of 30 September, there were 276 members as follows: Two members were reinstated including Warren E. Bergere and James K. Osteen; four members were dropped for non-renewal; no members transferred into our Chapter; four members transferred out of our Chapter (three moved out of State); two members passed away: William L. Burton and Oren G. Potter; ten members were sent second notices; and we have three new prospective members.

TREASURER REPORT - Bob Ridgway, Treasurer

As of 1 October 2017, the NARFE Chapter 422 bank balance was \$1,906.20, of which \$111.00 is 50/50 collection that will be mailed in December.

SUNSHINE REPORT – Theresa Murray

A Get Well card was sent to member Bob Ridgway (Chapter Treasurer), Silver Spring; and Sympathy cards were sent to the families of members William Burton, Laurel, and Oren Potter, Laurel.

NEWSLETTER - Bill Stoner, Editor

Newsletter contributors, please send me your December Newsletter submissions by **11/10**.

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

If you change your email address or postal address, please let the chapter know so that we have the most up-to-date information for sending you the monthly newsletter. Contact Blackie, email address below, for changes to your email address and David Walser, email address below, if you change your mailing address.

WORTH REPEATING...

Important Information for Military Veterans: A fellow veteran has informed us, that beginning November 11, 2017, all honorably discharged veterans will be able to shop online at all military exchanges. This benefit does not provide access to on-base exchanges, you will only be able to shop online at the following sites:

- [Army & Air Force Exchange https://www.shopmyexchange.com](https://www.shopmyexchange.com)
- [Navy Exchange https://www.mynavyexchange.com](https://www.mynavyexchange.com) (NEX Navy Exchange)
- [Marine Corp Exchange http://www.mymcx.com](http://www.mymcx.com)

Check with your local American Legion Post or, I imagine, other Veteran organizations for further information.

We need you!!! Could you spare one day a month (three hours) to sit at our NARFE Desk? We need you to staff the NARFE office at the Senior Center on the any Tuesday or on the 1st Wednesday of the month. Please see any board member if you are interested. The hours are from Noon to 3 p.m. and provide an excellent time you can use to catch up on things you need to do as well as helping out those who visit the office or call for information.

We continue to seek members to step up and volunteer for the following positions:

- Program Chair to assist in obtaining speakers for the monthly meeting.
- Active Federal Employee liaison;
- Service Officer.

Please consider getting involved; talk with our President about these positions.

NARFE CHAPTER 422 OFFICER CONTACT INFORMATION

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