



# NARFE

## Calvert County Chapter 1466

APRIL 2018

P.O. Box 1314, Lusby, MD 20657 or email [NARFE1466@gmail.com](mailto:NARFE1466@gmail.com)

### Membership Meeting

Apr 19<sup>th</sup> 1:00 pm

Senior Scams  
CC Sheriff  
@Calvert Pines SC  
Prince Frederick

Lunch @ 1130  
Bob Evans,  
Prince Frederick

### Executive Board Meeting

Apr 23<sup>rd</sup> 10:30 am  
@Southern Pines SC  
Lusby

### Future Member Meeting

May 17<sup>th</sup> 1:00 pm  
@ Southern Pines SC  
Lusby

**Active and Retired  
Federal Employees  
are invited!**

**Come to a Local  
Chapter Meeting  
Or Luncheon**

Change of Address?  
Winter Address?  
Email Newsletter?

Membership?  
(410) 326-9024  
[MAXMUNGER@VERIZON.NET](mailto:MAXMUNGER@VERIZON.NET)

**NOTE: You may double click on any highlighted and underlined internet address (URL) in the electronic version of the newsletter to connect directly to the internet.**

### Federal Legislative Update *Shelly Ziman*

[Excerpted from NARFE HQ] 2018 **Omnibus Spending Bill**

The House and Senate passed a \$1.3 trillion omnibus spending bill to fund the government through the end of fiscal year 2018 (FY18). The bill, which passed with bipartisan support, then went to President Trump where it was signed into law. Without its passage, the government would have shut down.

Included in the FY18 omnibus spending bill is a 2.4 percent pay increase for military personnel. NARFE has long advocated for pay raise parity between military personnel and civilian federal employees. Federal employees suffered through pay freezes and small, insufficient pay increases in recent years. However, federal employees were provided with a 1.9 percent average pay raise in 2018, and the president proposed a pay freeze in 2019.

Finally, in line with past appropriations bills, the omnibus extends a few policies applicable to the United States Postal Service. Notably, the text requires that "6-day delivery and rural delivery of mail shall continue at not less than the 1983 level." It also stipulates that no funds provided by the bill "shall be used to consolidate or close small rural and other small post offices."

### Holman Rule Remains for 2018

On March 20, the House reinstated the Holman Rule through 2018 with passage of H.Res. 787. Though the Holman Rule was eliminated in 1983, it was revived in 2017 and now extended through 2018. Under the Holman Rule, an amendment may be offered during floor debate on an appropriations bill that reduces the number of federal employees at an agency, reduces the salary of an individual federal employee or group of employees, and can even eliminate one particular federal position.

Recently, in July of 2017, members of the House Freedom Caucus used the Holman Rule to propose an amendment that would have eliminated the Congressional Budget Office's budget analysis division, comprised of 89 people, because they were unhappy with how that division scored repeal of the Affordable Care Act. Thankfully the

amendment was voted down by members of both parties, though this instance highlights the vulnerabilities the Holman Rule creates for federal employees.

The revival of the Holman Rule creates substantial uncertainty for federal employees, who could be subject to how the political winds are blowing at any given time. Decisions affecting federal employees and programs could be implemented without necessary hearings and debate. NARFE is closely monitoring any potential use of this rule and its impact.

**Reminder --** NARFE members are again encouraged to use the [NARFE Legislative Action Center](#) to review Congressional legislative details, quickly and easily send letters to members of Congress on a variety of NARFE issues, sign up for action alerts, and track NARFE-related bills and votes.

### Maryland Legislative Update *Shelly Ziman*

The Status of All Senate Legislation Introduced 2018 Session can be found at <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/pubs-current/current-senate-status-report.pdf>, and The Status of All house Legislation Introduced 2018 Session can be found at <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/pubs-current/current-house-status-report.pdf>.

### Secretary

*Bob Oszajca*

### Condensed from Meeting Mar 15<sup>th</sup>

Max Munger gave the opening remarks, introductions, led the Chapter in a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 13 chapter members and guests in attendance. The location was at the Southern Pines Senior Center in Lusby.

The presentation was given by Judy Kay of the Masters Gardeners of Maryland. Judy was trained by the University of Maryland. Their mission is to educate us on the impact of our landscaping and gardening on the bay. There were numerous handouts and a question and answer session at the end of the presentation.

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The master gardeners have an annual plant sale in May on Main Street in Prince Frederick.

One of the topics was the Bay wise yard certification program. The loss natural habitat contributes to poor water quality in the Bay. There are million acres of lawn in Maryland. She suggested several species to plant under tress instead of grass. One example was ferns. Instead of pesticides, create a healthy yard with a variety of plants that attract beneficial creatures.

The Business Meeting:

Legislative report. Several bills are before Maryland legislature for tax law and long term care benefit changes.

USM- Legislation was introduced for tax breaks for seniors. Two bills are before the Maryland legislature to change the income tax laws. NARFE has urged its members to support these bills. The USM is trying to form a taskforce on long term care. They are soliciting volunteers. See newsletter for more details.

Programs for the next several months were discussed. A list of suggested program topics for winter/spring of 2018:

1. A State Highway presentation on Calvert County roads including the Prince Fredrick bypass.
2. Presentation on medical topics including Alzheimer's, arthritis, heart disease, cancer and medical marijuana.
3. A speaker on yoga, exercise and health issues.
4. County zoning plan and update with the Prince Frederick Library...possible in spring.
5. Joint meeting with the Bay Chapter a topic of broad interest or a picnic
6. TSP program
7. Sheriff's Office to talk about crime status.
8. A presentation on options for living in a senior community such as Asbury. The meeting could be held at Asbury possibly in May.
9. USM speaker on long term care and/or senior scams.
10. A speaker from SMECO talking about energy efficiency and the energy survey.

The 50/50 raffle was held at the end of the meeting. The prize of \$36 was won by

Edwin Balwin a retired state employee from Asbury. He donated all \$36 to the Alzheimer's Fund. In total \$85 dollars has been raised for the Alzheimer's Fund in 2018.

**Executive Board notes – for Mar 26, 2018**

Old Business:

Shelly checked on the cost of placing the ads in both the Calvert Recorder and Local Times. The cost of placing ads in the Recorder for 4 weeks was \$400 for 4 weeks. Others papers were less. No decision was made.

Audit the audit is in progress. All financial records including bank statements and receipts have been forwarded to Kathy for the audit. Kathy and Grace will conduct the audit and report back at the April meeting. chapter. Several members expressed in interest in the meeting.

New Business:

The April Executive board meeting will develop a consensus on the 50 or so items to be discussed at the August conference. This year voting will be done by all members either by mail or electronically. The June issue of the NARFE Magazine will have a ballot for members to vote on the issues prior to the NARFE National Conference in Aug.

Roger talked about the Money smart week at the Library. He will be working to help them out and members are invited to the events. It will be the last week of April.

Meetings: The next regular meeting will be on Thu April 19<sup>th</sup> at Calvert Pines in Prince Frederick and the next Executive Board meeting will be on Monday April 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Southern Pines Community Center in Lusby.



2018 BALLOTING INFORMATION

NARFE National is incrementally rolling out their 'one member/one vote' process. In 2018 NARFE members must diligently read their NARFE magazine and do research on candidates, bylaws and resolutions ahead of the May opening of the balloting process.

The chapter Board members will comment on this new voting process via our monthly newsletter to alert them that their opportunity to vote on national officers and new bylaws/resolutions will require them to mail in or go on-line between May 10 and before June 30? We must emphasize that each member must take the initiative to fill out his ballot.

KEY HQ DATES

Table with 2 columns: Date, Event. Rows include January 2018 (Standing Committees Meet), February 1, 2018 (Bylaws and Resolutions Committee Final Report Due), March 2018 Issue (Candidate Statements Published in narfe Magazine), April 2018 Issue (Bylaws and Resolutions Committee Report Published in narfe Magazine), May 10, 2018 (Internet Voting Site Live), June 2018 Issue (Ballot Published in narfe Magazine), June 30, 2018 (Voting Cutoff).

Looking for candidate statements? Need a copy of the Bylaws and Resolutions? Click here for the 2018 Balloting Information where you can find all of this information and more. To request a print copy, please ORDER ONLINE HERE or call (703) 838-7760 Ext. 252

Help Wanted: Sgt @ Arms to maintain custody of flags and banners and set up at meetings! Contact Max.

A volunteer is needed for participation with United Seniors of MD and also the MD Federations Legislative Committee. Contact Shelly.

Money Smart Week The Calvert County library in Prince Frederick is offering several programs in conjunction with Money Smart Week. They are:

- Friday, April 20th (2 – 4 PM) Money Smarts Workshop
Tuesday, April 24th (7 – 8:30 PM) Maximizing Your Credit Score
Wednesday, April 25th (7 -8:30 PM) Investing Terminology & Getting Started
Thursday, April 26th (7 – 8:30 PM) Using a Broker vs DIY Investing
Saturday, April 28th (2 – 3:30 PM) First-Time Home Buying

Have you been dropped from Chapter 1466? Please check your mailing address on this special mailed newsletter page 4. If the letters XTRFR or DROPPED appear after your name, you have recently been transferred out of our chapter or dropped from membership in NARFE. If you DID NOT intend to do that, please call/email the membership chair MAXMUNGER@VERIZON.NET so we can reinstate you. We don't want to lose you!

Treasurers Report Bob Oszajca

Table with 3 columns: Item, Amount 1, Amount 2. Rows include Bal Feb 30 (2112.02, 49.00), Newsletter (58.46), NARFE Dues (69.96), 50/50 (36.00, 36.00), Bal Mar 30 (2159.52, 85.00).

Membership

Table with 2 columns: Category, Count. Rows include Prospects (12), New (1), Reinstated (3), Transferred (5), Total Voting (122).

One member passed away, Joe Colony from Huntington on January 9, 2018

OPM Retirement Services

www.opm.gov Email retire@opm.gov Phone: 1-888-767-6738 or (hearing impaired) TTY 1-885-887-4957 or TTD 1-800-878-5707

NARFE Federal Benefits Institute

Useful Webinars on timely subjects www.narfe.org/member/FederalBenefitsInstitute

Federal Services and Benefits

800-FED-INFO (1-800-333-4636)

NARFE Store - Apparel, Badges

www.narfe.org

NARFE's 24 x 7 Hotline 1-877-217-8234

You can call this number anytime to find out the latest news about what is happening.

Maryland Community Services

Over 9000 social, health and criminal justice resources. http://www.mdcsi.org

United Seniors of Maryland

A coalition of individuals and organizations with a common interest in preserving and enhancing the mental, physical, and financial well-being of Maryland seniors. www.unitedseniors.net

**ACCESSING THE FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER --** NARFE members are urged to use the [Legislative Action Center](#) (LAC) as the hub to send [letters](#) to members of Congress and track Federal NARFE-related [bills and votes](#). NARFE frequently updates the LAC, so check back often.

### UPCOMING CALENDAR EVENTS

- **June 30, NARFE “One Man One Vote” on HQ elections, bylaws, Resolutions, Online voting! NARFE magazine.**
- Prince Frederick Coalition, **April 2<sup>nd</sup>** and **June 4<sup>th</sup>** 7:00 pm. at the HEBCC, 901 Dares Beach Road. (Shelly Ziman)
- MDFED Convention will be in Bowie Maryland from April 30 and May 1, 2018 (Barry Grier)
- Region II training academy will be in June 11-12 in York PA (Bob Oszejca)
- MDFED Sudha Hailey and Dr Gary Roundtree will be making a presentation at the Bay Area chapter June 27<sup>th</sup>.
- NARFE FEDcon18 on August 26-28 in Jacksonville, Florida. Visit [FEDcon18](#) today for registration details.

### Chapter 1466 Meetings

Chapter meetings are on the third Thursday of each month (except July and August). A short business meeting follows our special program or guest speaker. Executive Board meetings are the fourth Monday. Active and retired federal employees, non-members, spouses and guests are always invited.

(See page 1 for actual meeting dates and locations)

**Chapter Lunches and Meetings are canceled  
ONLY WHEN Calvert County Schools are closed all day.**

See us on Face Book at  
[NARFE-Chapter-1466-Calvert-County-MD](#)

### About NARFE

Since 1921, the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association is the only organization exclusively devoted to protecting the earned benefits of active and retired Civil Service employees and their annuitants and survivors. Membership is open to civilians in any agency of the Federal government, including retirees, current employees, spouses of current employees or retirees, and survivors of those eligible to join NARFE.

[www.NARFE.org](http://www.NARFE.org) and [www.mdnarfe.org](http://www.mdnarfe.org)