



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

Phone: 301-206-3381 + + + Email: narfe422@yahoo.com

June 2018

Volume 29, Number 07

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

NARFE CHAPTER LUNCHEON and MEETING

Our next NARFE Chapter meeting will be June 5th at 11:30 a.m. We have invited Maryland Senator James Rosapepe and Delegates from District 21 and 23 including Barbara Frush, Joceline Pena-Melynk, Geraldine Valentino-Smith, and Ben Barnes to update us on legislative actions and issues concerning our community that took place at the latest legislative session.

The meeting will begin at 11:30 a.m. and open with lunch being served. The luncheon menu will consist of Shrimp salad, Chicken Salad, Cole Slaw, Potato salad, rolls, fruit pies, vanilla ice cream, and unsweetened iced tea.

The cost of the luncheon is \$16.00. Checks should be made payable to NARFE Chapter 422 and sent to Treasurer Stewart Saphier, 2901 Friendlywood Way, Burtonsville, Maryland 20866. Reservations should be made by May 30.

Barbara Hemming, Chapter 422 President

OPM Proposes Legislation to Cut Retirement Benefits for Current and Former Feds

Office of Personnel Management Director Jeff Pon wrote a letter to House Speaker Paul Ryan late last week requesting a number of legislative changes that would cut retirement benefits for federal workers. The request, which Pon said would save taxpayers \$143.5 billion over the next decade, comes on the eve of the White House's planned introduction of \$15 billion in spending cuts as part of a rescission package. Pon said his plans, which are a laundry list of previously proposed cuts to federal employee retirement programs, would "bring federal benefits more in line with the private sector." Pon wrote that the proposed changes reflect the move by private sector businesses away from defined-benefit pensions in recent years. "In summary, the employee retirement landscape continues to evolve as private companies are providing less compensation in the form of retirement benefits," the OPM chief stated. "The shift away from defined-benefit programs and cost-of-living adjustments for annuitants is part of that evolution." Included in the proposals are plans to eliminate Federal Employees' Retirement System supplements for federal employees who retire before Social Security kicks in at age 62, going forward; change the basis of a retiree's defined benefit annuity payments from their highest three years of salary to their highest five years; and increase the amount federal employees contribute to FERS by 1 percentage point per year until they reach an overall contribution level of 7.25 percent, matching the government's contribution. Pon wrote that after agencies and employees reach contribution parity, employee contributions to FERS should fluctuate on a year-by-year basis to maintain the 50-50 cost sharing. OPM also proposed the elimination of cost-of-living adjustments for FERS retirees—both current and future—and the reduction of Civil Service Retirement System COLAs by 0.5 percent. Pon also recommended eliminating a provision of the law that requires FERS disability annuities to be reduced by the recipient's "assumed disability insurance benefit" through Social Security, instead basing the reduction on the individual's actual Social Security benefits. "The assumed disability insurance benefit differs from the annuitant's actual Social Security disability insurance benefit because the assumed disability insurance benefit is based on the SSDI benefit amount increased by FERS COLAs, whereas the actual Social Security disability insurance benefit is updated by CPI increases," Pon wrote. "With the elimination of FERS COLAs, the reduction for SSDI would be based on the actual amount of SSDI benefit."

The American Federation of Government Employees blasted the proposals Monday as a "war on working people." In addition to the retirement cuts, the Trump administration in its fiscal 2019 budget request called for a pay freeze for all federal civilian workers next year, as well as a plan to significantly reduce the rate of return on the Thrift Savings Plan's G Fund.

"Federal offices across the country are struggling to recruit and retain workers because federal wages and benefits are falling further behind the private sector," said AFGE National President J. David Cox. "Yet the Trump administration wants to freeze employees' wages next year and now is proposing to take away the retirement benefits they've worked a lifetime to earn." Officials at OPM did not respond to a request for comment.

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

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
LAUREL, MD
Permit No. 952

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME SENSITIVE MAIL
MEETING – June 6

**** VOTE ****

Tuesday, June 26 in the Primary Election OR you can VOTE EARLY from June 14 to 21, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., at the Laurel-Beltsville Senior Activity Center.

Our Chapter has THREE remaining positions that need to be filled. Most important is our CHAPTER PRESIDENT and also the Service Officer and POC for Active Federal Employees. We need our Chapter Members to step up to help us. Please consider filling one of these positions. Our outgoing Chapter President, Barbara Hemming, can fill you in on the details. Thank You!!

MEMBERSHIP REPORT – Dave Walser, Membership Officer

There were 236 members as of April 30, 2018. There were no new members; one member was reinstated, Thomas E. Devine; two members were dropped for non-renewal; no members were transferred into our Chapter, but two members transferred out. Three members were sent second notices; we had one new prospective member; and no members passed away.

TREASURER REPORT – Stew Saphier, Treasurer

As of May 14, 2018, the balance in the NARFE Laurel Chapter 422 treasury is \$1,825.86, which includes \$69 in the 50/50 Alzheimer's fund.

SUNSHINE REPORT – Theresa Murray

The Chapter sent a Get Well card to member Bill Ferguson, who is our 2nd VP/Legislative Officer.

NEWSLETTER - Bill Stoner, Editor

I was reminded that there is no newsletter in July or August, so submissions for the newsletter in September should be submitted by August 9, 2018 to my email address, which is stoney43@gmail.com, please.

NARFE CHAPTER 422 OFFICER CONTACT INFORMATION

President	Barbara Hemming	hemmisur@yahoo.com	301-802-5755
Past President	Bill Anderson	andersonwj@verizon.net	301-785-5202
1st VP/Membership Officer	Dave Walser	walserdw@his.com	301-776-3490
2nd VP/Legislative Officer	Bill Ferguson	wfretired00@gmail.com	301-776-6993
Asst. Legislative Officer	Edward Zipeto	ezipeto@yahoo.com	301-559-4094
Secretary	Patricia Farmer	buttonspaf@aol.com	301-776-4645
Treasurer	Stewart H. Saphier	saphierss@gmail.com	301-384-7249
Program Officer	Sara Walser	walserse@hers.com	301-776-3490
Public Relations Officer	Sara Walser	walserse@hers.com	301-776-3490
NARFE-PAC POC	Bill Ferguson	wfretired00@gmail.com	301-776-6993
Sunshine POC	Theresa Murray	ayurveda@yahoo.com	301-937-2604
NARFE Net Coordinator	Blackie Blackstock	erj2626@verizon.net	301-776-6328
Active Federal Employee POC	VACANT		
Service Officer	VACANT		
Luncheon	Helen Hass		301-776-7636
Newsletter Editor	Bill Stoner	stoney43@gmail.com	301-725-1668