



MARYLAND FEDERATION

NEWSLETTER

Fall 2018



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BUILD - STRENGTHEN - ADVOCATE - LEAD

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Dr. Gary Roundtree

My fellow NARFE visionaries, our 2019 Biennial Conference Build - Strengthen - Advocate – Lead - will be held May 5-7, 2019 at the lovely Dunes Manor Hotel, located at 2800 Baltimore Ave., Ocean City, MD 21842, one block from the famous ocean boardwalk and top-tier restaurants. The 2019 Conference Planning Committee, **Co-Chair Larry Walton, Dan McGrath, Eleanor Kaul, Arlene Page, Laretta Grier, Barry Grier, Ted Page** and **Dr. Gary Roundtree Sr.**, have successfully negotiated a room

rate of \$89.00 per day, plus state and local taxes, currently total 10.5 percent, for a total charge of \$98.35 a day.

All NARFE members will have ocean view rooms and everyone will be responsible for securing their own hotel accommodations. Please plan to bring family and friends for an awesome time at the beach. Ocean Downs Casino will provide a shuttle to and from the hotel to the casino. Another feature is a shopping excursion to the Outlet Mall in Ocean City, with transportation provided from and to the hotel.

We expect to have four outstanding keynote speakers and four to six workshops at the coming conference. This Biennial Conference will be like no other conference the Maryland Federation of NARFE has held before. Conference presenters on an array of topics will help us become the “**Master Builder**” of our Federation’s future, like “**James Madison** was a chief architect of the Constitution, a designer of American democracy,” a quote from Alex Dalenberg, journalist and senior editor at *This Week Magazine*.

Some potential keynote speakers being considered for the conference are: **Barbara Sido**, Executive Director, NARFE HQ; **Robert Daly**, Director of Kissinger Institute on China and the United States at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars; **Tom Rosenstiel**, *Whither the Media? Fake News Anyone?*, Executive Director of American Press Institute; **Dr. Adam M. Robinson Jr., M.D.**, Director of VA Maryland Health Care System (VAMHCS); and **retired U.S. Army General David Petraeus**, among the most prominent U.S. military figures of the post-9/11 era. More information on the 2019 Biennial Conference will be shared with you at the October 2 Board Meeting in Bowie.

DR. GARY ROUNDTREE SR.

Federation Directory

Executive Committee

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Contacts

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Federal Legislative Committee Chair	Dr. Bruce Fowler	240-479-0886	bafowler777@gmail.com
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Chapters and Presidents

126	Western Charles/Indian Head,	Ed Rice	1522	Susquehanna.....Acting	Barry Decker
126	Co-Presidents	Ron Bush	1734	Howard County	Stephen Huza
251	Annapolis	Carla Duls	1747	Greater Bowie/Crofton	Frank Lee
258	Western Montgomery County	Charles Garfinkel	1770	Bel Air	James Wood
306	Hagerstown	Patricia Nix	1887	Wheaton/Glenmont	Ron Shansby
409	Frederick	Elinor Abrell	1888	White Oak	Marcia Swanson
410	West-Mar	Donnie Gibson	1892	Aspen Hill, Co-Presidents	J. Lazaroff/S. Richards
422	Laurel	Samuel Raines	1936	N.W. Baltimore Metro,	Barbara Cuffie
969	St. Mary's County	Boyd Loflin	1936	Co-Presidents.....	Bessie Johnson
1127	Rockville	Jennifer Ramsey	1972	Waldorf/La Plata	Edward Holland
1143	Leisure World	John Moens	2166	Eastern Baltimore Area	Jerry Kerner
1260	Southern P.G. County	William Guthrie	2262	Upper Marlboro	P.A. Jeffries
1363	Bay Area	Jo Anne Groves	2274	Ocean Area	Larry Walton
1372	Tidewater	Gerry Phillips	2306	Carroll County	Charles Harrison
1466	Calvert County	Greg Stottlemeyer			
1519	Glen Burnie, Co-Presidents	Don Bender			
1519	Bob Minghini, Sr.			

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LEGISLATIVE

Dr. Sudha Haley
First Vice President / Legislative Director
NARFE-PAC Coordinator

LEGISLATIVE REPORT



Federation President **Dr. Gary Roundtree Sr.** and I have taken this timely opportunity to become actively engaged with our Chapter members throughout our Federation. We have successfully launched our **2018 Chapter Spotlight Tour** initiative and have already visited over half of our Federation's 28 Chapters. We have met with members who have never attended any of our Federation-wide conversations, conferences, meetings or training. As we have indicated, our goal is to listen to every Chapter member and incorporate their insights, talents, and passions and learn how we can harmonize your priorities with NARFE National and Federation's priorities, to influence our Federation's future.

With Chapter members, we shared our Federation's future publications, such as our forthcoming Federation Handbook, which would include a catalog of acknowledged and well-received experts for Chapters' **Speakers Bureau**. The Handbook will also include a listing of Federation members who would volunteer to become **Mentors, Sponsors** and **Advocates** to other Chapters in need. We explained the advocacy roles of our Congressional District Leaders (CDLs) and Senate Leaders (SLs) and how members could participate in building relationships with our lawmakers. We also solicited more profiles for our **2018 Profiles in Civil Service**, to highlight and celebrate the positive impact our Federation members have had and are currently having on the American public. Our Legislative Committee Chair, **Dr. Bruce Fowler**, has secured the Foreword for the *2018 Profiles* from our Maryland **Senators Ben Cardin** and **Chris Van Hollen**.

Following are the Chapters and then Chapter Presidents who invited us and with whose Chapter members we partnered for our **2018 Chapter Spotlight Tour**: In **January**: Chapter 1972-Waldorf/La Plata, President **Neil McGrath**; **February**: Chapter 1892-Aspen Hill, President **Dr. Linda Cohen**; **March**: Chapter 258-Western Montgomery County, President **Charles Garfinkel**; Chapter 969-St. Mary's County, President **Joe Luskus**; Chapter 1143-Silver Spring-Leisure World, President **John Moens**; **April**: Chapter 422-Laurel, President **Barbara Hemming**; Chapter 126-Western Charles County/Indian Head, Co-Presidents **Ed Rice** and **Ron Bush**; Chapter 1372-Tidewater, President **Gerald Phillips**; Chapter 1260-Southern Prince George's County, President **Bettie Hill**; **May**: Chapter 2262-Upper Marlboro, President **P.A. Jeffries**; Chapter 251-Annapolis, President **Carla Duls**; **June**: Chapter 306-Hagerstown, President **Ed Reed**; Chapter 1522-Susquehanna, Acting President **Barry Decker**; Chapter 1363 Bay Area-Deale, President **Jo Anne Groves** with Chapter 1466-Calvert County, President **Greg Stottlemeyer**. We have already received our first invitation in the fall for: **September**: Chapter 1736-Northwest Baltimore Metro, Co-Presidents **Barbara Cuffie** and **Bessie Johnson**.

We were truly inspired by the ideas members shared with us, to enrich our Federation's mission. The interactions with individual members significantly broadened our perspective, leading us to collectively seek answers and options. Chapter Presidents told us they were grateful for our initiative to come to their Chapter meetings to "listen" to the members. Chapter members and we identified strategies and determined accessible Federation resources of fund and personnel for responsible Chapters' growth. We have activated several members' recommendations that we received during our Tour. To name a few suggestions we have already processed: We took immediate action to ensure our members had substantive information to vote on the bylaws and resolutions proposals by creating and distributing a "Cheat Sheet" of recommendations, created by the Committee led by **Dr. Dick Strombotne, Saj Durrani, John Stackpole** and **Sarah Richards**; we consulted with NARFE Headquarters to place Chapter membership in a recognizable place on the Membership application form----We are currently not satisfied with the outcome on both issues, and we will continue to campaign for and confer with NARFE HQ; and we helped members understand the duties and responsibilities of officers for Chapters where succession is a concern. We are preparing to bring to the Federation Executive Committee's attention several other chapter members' recommendations, which might require financial resources. We are eager to meet with every one of our 28 Chapters' members, so please provide us with your available dates this fall.

NARFE National Executive Director Barbara Sido has convened a National Collaboration Network of leaders from across the NARFE Federations, on which I serve, to gather feedback from our Chapters' leaders and members. I am extremely grateful to our Federation leaders who provided detailed input on several of the National NARFE prototypes of new programs, products and services that I shared with you at the Board meeting and electronically. Some we have discussed are: a Digital Benefits Decision Tree; a NARFE Mobile App; a podcast delivered from HQ directly to Federation or Chapter meetings, with the latest legislative news; Counseling services; and meeting the needs for planning a Federation's Convention/Conference/Annual Meeting. We will hear more about all of these at the FEDcon18. See you there!

Collaborating with our coalition partners helps us increase the visibility of NARFE and reach a wider audience for recruitment and advocacy. Toward this purpose, we collaborated, through the mediation of our Federation Secretary **Patricia Farmer**, with the Business and Professional Women of Maryland (BPW/MD), to convene a Gubernatorial Candidates' Forum before the primaries. As we approach the general elections, please review on the mdnarfe.org website our **Forum on YouTube** (Produced by **Ted Page** and **Pat Dempsey**) to gain insight into how the Democratic Governor candidate Ben Jealous' Deputy Susan Turnbull responded to our Moderator, State Legislative Chair Paul Schwartz's questions. We are still hoping to partner with AARP on a Forum, before the general elections, to ask Governor Hogan to respond to our issues.

August is NARFE's Grassroots Advocacy Month. We have significant concerns regarding pending Federal legislation that will affect our financial and health security, and we need to act now! Your CDLs and SLs have laid the foundation for a strong partnership and personal rapport with our Maryland lawmakers by our face-to-face contacts with them and their staffs on Capitol Hill and in their District Offices. Lawmakers will assuredly act on our behalf if we have the increased support and participation from each Federation member, Active and Retired. In August, please attend a meeting, a town hall, or an event with your Congressman and Senators. If you cannot travel, contact them through letters, e-mails, or social media, to motivate them to continue to protect our earned pay and benefits and thank them for being champions on our issues. On Capitol Hill, we need to urge our lawmakers to Oppose: eliminating the FERS Annuity Supplement; calculating retirement annuities using High Five years pay

Instead of High Three years pay; increasing FERS employees' contributions to retirement benefits without increasing benefits (which amounts to a pay cut); reducing federal annuity COLAs for CSRS and eliminating the COLAs for FERS; requiring postal retirees to enroll in Medicare Part B in order to continue receiving their current federal health insurance coverage; attempts to cut Medicare Benefits, weaken Social Security or shift higher costs to older Americans; and any other detrimental Legislation. To brief National members, NARFE HQ Grassroots Advocacy Program Manager **Molly Checksfield** invited me and the Virginia Federation Legislative Chair, former IG **Gaston Gianni**, to help her prepare a NARFE Grassroots Advocacy video, which we filmed on Capitol Hill.

Please contact me if you need further information on any of the items in this article.



Virginia Federation Legislative Chair Gaston Gianni and MD Federation Legislative Director Dr. Sudha Haley pose with the Capitol Building as their backdrop to mark their NARFE Grassroots Advocacy video for NARFE Advocacy Month – August 2018.



During the 2018 Chapter Spotlight Tour, 1st VP Dr. Sudha Haley is pictured with Patricia Nix, new Hagerstown President (right).



Paul Schwartz

State Legislative Committee Chair

STATE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE (SLC) REPORT

Elections have consequences and those consequences are often determined by how many of us vote, for whom we vote and whether we hold those who win accountable for the positions they take and the issues they support.

The upcoming midterm election is no different. For NARFE members specifically, to what extent we hold our elected representatives accountable, for supporting or not supporting those issues we have determined to be relevant to us, will determine our level of success in achieving our stated priorities.

On that point, as many of you may know, the State Legislation Committee recently sent out a survey to some 564 candidates seeking office in Annapolis. These included all running for state office, including incumbents seeking re-election.

The survey consisted of three questions, which capture our issues regarding tax relief for seniors. The three questions sought a simple "yes" or "no" and were:

- 1) Permit Maryland taxpayers to itemize deductions on their Maryland tax returns whether or not they use the standard deduction on their Federal tax returns.
- 2) Extend the tax exemptions of \$15,000 on pensions of military retirees over the age of 55 and the \$5,000 for those below age 55 to the pensions of Federal, State and local public service retirees.
- 3) Increase the supplemental tax exemption of \$1,000 for elderly taxpayers and their elderly spouses to match the \$3,200 exemption that can be claimed for elderly dependents.

We received over 120 responses, some 21 percent, to the survey. With a handful of exceptions, all those who responded answered "yes" to all three of our survey questions

Now to interpret the results. First, only about a fifth of those receiving the survey responded. Why would that be, you ask? The likely answer is that it is more politically acceptable to go on the record with a "yes" than a "no." The good news is that of those who did respond, the responses were almost all supportive of the three issues posed to them. That, of course, is encouraging. The not so good news is that some 80 percent did not respond, most likely because they did NOT want to commit to a "yes" reply.

In my own local District 14, of my four representatives, two returned the survey with "yes" to the three questions and two did not submit responses. The two who did not return the survey both sit on the

House Ways & Means Committee, the committee that failed to pass legislation to address the impact of the federal tax plan on Maryland taxpayers. The two who did submit responses to the survey, of course, do not sit on either that committee or the corresponding Senate Committee on Budget & Taxation.

Granted, it would be somewhat hypocritical for members of the committee that killed the legislation to correct the effective tax hike to now respond that they support the legislation to address the tax hike. On the other hand, since when did hypocrisy ever stand in the way of politics?

So, where does that leave us, you ask? It leaves us with **YOU**. The results of the survey are posted on the State Legislation Committee website, which can easily be found on the Maryland Federation website, www.mdnarfe.org, by going to the top righthand corner and clicking on the SLC. How your particular representatives voted is there for you. If your representative is not listed, it means they did not return the survey and did not commit to supporting the issues raised in the survey.

During the period leading up to the November election, it is safe to say that many seeking election will be reaching out for your vote. Having the results of our survey in hand would be quite useful in generating a discussion about what level of support we can expect from these representatives regarding senior tax relief.

Also, of great benefit to our cause would be for chapter presidents - you know who you are - to mobilize membership to contact representatives both before AND after election day as we head toward the 2019 legislative session. Using chapter newsletters to capture the results of the survey specific to the representatives representing the districts in the individual chapters would be a great way of spreading the word.

Remember, there is nothing an elected official loves more than seeing his or her name in print and there is nothing we should like more than having the survey results printed right alongside their names.

NARFE LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER

To get to the NARFE Legislative Action Center:
Go to www.narfe.org; Click on Legislation on left; Under Legislation, click on Take Action.
Then click on Write to Congress. That takes you to the NARFE Legislative Action Center.

OR

Use the URL:

www.narfe.org/legislation/votervoicce.cfm

MEMBERSHIP



Edward Reed

2nd Vice President, Membership



Recruit Prospective Members!

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

NARFE Membership Strategies: This Autumn's National NARFE Membership Campaign - \$10 reward to each NARFE member recruiter - for each new NARFE member application received between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2018 - has been confirmed! Also, Maryland Federation's matching \$10 reward for each new NARFE membership application during that period has also been confirmed! I am encouraging all Maryland Federation members to: Read the recently released NARFE INSIDER for all the prizes associated with this year's Autumn Recruitment Drive. (Note: "INSIDER" was released in late July to all NARFE Chapter Officers.

Here are some beneficial ideas for all Maryland Chapters. These are the "Keys to Successful NARFE Recruiting"; use them when speaking with your USPS Mail Carrier, when visiting your local U.S. Post Office, and always carry a few NARFE applications with you! Always give them a copy of and stress the benefits of *narfe* Magazine articles, such as the Q & A's for workers and retirees; Current Legislative Reports (The LAC); The Legislative Tracker (How it affects all employed); Articles on managing money, Health and Medicine, Pay and Benefits Information; Open Season Information; and the "NARFE Perks:" listings of discounts for members (NARFE Federal Credit Union, Travel, Hotel and Car Rental discounts).

A few words on the NARFE membership application from our NARFE Executive Director Barb Sido: "With a full year of optional chapter membership behind us, the NARFE renewal form has been revised. Revisions are based on member feedback, input from the Marketing and Member Resources Advisory committee and guidance from our parliamentarian. The majority of the concerns we have heard have to do with the belief that members are choosing national only because they are confused. Therefore, the primary goal of these revisions is to enhance clarity. You will notice: a larger 8 1/2" x 14" format; a simple three-step process guides the member through the form. The 800 number is located in three places should a member have a question. The consequences of choosing a "national only" renewal is explicit. The option for national only members to find out about a chapter is prominently presented. Headquarters is in the process of selecting a new processing vendor that will better meet our needs. In the interim, the "Transition" form will provide far more clarity. With the new vendor, we will be able to extend the print area. The language remains the same but the vertical layout further demonstrates the easy three-step process. HQS began using the "Transition" form in June 2018; the "Final" form is likely to replace it this fall."

If, in your NARFE recruiting efforts, you run into a candidate for membership who must have it all in writing or in print, to look it all over, etc., just mention NARFE's new, redesigned and enhanced web pages, accessible to nonmembers and the general public at www.narfe.org. The website features a redesigned masthead and user-friendly navigation with content organized into five sections under a drop-down menu: federal benefits, advocacy, membership, events and communication. Each section features a redesigned landing page directing the reader to content in that section. The website also has content about NARFE, the federal community and encourages visitors to support NARFE. Finally, a membership tip: If your Chapter has lost "Life Members," due to any renewal slip-up, etc., just ask the Life Member to mail Chapter's Dues amount to the Chapter's Treasurer and call Jackie Bryant at NARFE HQS; she will reinstate your Life Membership in your Chapter.

REPORTS, NEWS, EVENTS AND INFORMATION



Evelyn Kirby
Region II Vice President

REGION II UPDATE

Certified results of 2018 NARFE election outcomes were announced the first week of July, immediately placed on narfe.org and will be in the magazine. I'll recap briefly as this was a milestone One Member One Vote event. No candidate for National President won a majority so there will be a second ballot –and instructions-- for this position in the magazine. It will use a preferential approach as approved by 80 percent member vote. **Kathryn Hensley** of South Carolina is incoming National Secretary/Treasurer. NARFE Articles of Incorporation were revised via an 89 percent vote. Change to the National Secretary/Treasurer's salary beginning 2020 passed via an 83 percent vote. All proposals recommended by the National Bylaws and Resolutions Committee were adopted by 86 percent to 96 percent. Voters agreed with all proposal rejections recommended by that Committee by 82 percent to 92 percent. Committee members were leaders from Federations across NARFE and operated independently. No HQ staff or National Officers advised or directed them.

Only 6.77 percent of those eligible to vote did so--13,720 NARFE members: 70 percent via email, 30 percent via US Mail. This was despite membership being informed in numerous magazine issues, online messages, newsletters and meetings to avail themselves of ballot information. Members were offered contacts for questions they may have and urged to vote. The ballot was distributed mid-May in the June magazine sent to all members with an address on record at HQ. Not every voter voted on every item. Those known until now as National members cast 26 percent of all votes though as a group 4.34% percent of such members returned a ballot. Of all voters in MD's Federation 5.81 percent voted and of all voters in Region II 5.89 percent voted. Data from the first One Member One Vote national election signal work ahead to keep improving NARFE's governance. For now, encourage voter turnout for the National President ballot. Stand by for publications and guidance flowing from election results, e.g., updated National Bylaws, Standing Rules, templates and helpful material for Federation, Chapter and member use.

Members clearly adopted via 95 percent vote use of "Association" membership in lieu of "National" membership to help avoid any misinterpretation. Therefore, please use "Association" membership to describe any situation where "Chapter" membership is not appropriate. HQ will be reflecting this term in its materials and messages going forward as should all segments of NARFE.

With transitions underway mentioned above and otherwise, please be sure to continue your excellent annual audits of Federation and Chapter treasuries. While this is not a popular topic, leaders must always be strong fiduciary stewards of member money and properly handle all funds and dues revenue.

Thank you to the many MD attendees, especially MD presenters and helpers, who made the June 11-12 Region II Training Academy in York, Pa., a success. It was so scored by the large number of evaluations received. In all, 140 attended from DC, DE, MD, NJ and PA plus several from FL, VA and SC. They shared collective experiences and lessons learned. They engaged candidly with HQ experts and peer practitioners plus all candidates for National President and a candidate for National Secretary/Treasurer (with the other candidate unavoidably detained at the last moment).

I hope to see you in Jacksonville, Fla., at FEDcon18, NARFE's National Conference the end of August. It should be an exciting and informative time. I also extend my gratitude for the good works you and all MD members do for NARFE and its mission. It has been and is my honor to be Region II VP November 1, 2012 to October 31, 2018. Kathy Adams of Delaware is pleased to join forces with you on November 1, when she becomes Region II's VP. As you have heard me say: "Always Forward...." It's the only way to go.

FINANCIAL



Dick Strombotne
Treasurer

TREASURER'S REPORT

Federation Finances as of July 31, 2018. At the start of 2018, the Maryland Federation's net assets totaled \$102,042. As of July 31, 2018, they totaled \$103,391 for a **year-to-date surplus of \$1,349**. The most significant revenues came from ten-percent funds (\$29,822). See detailed summary in table below.

Net Assets. The Federation's net assets as of July 31, 2018 included: Bank of America Checking - \$14,819.34 and B of A Savings - \$88,571.61. Net assets total \$103,390.95 (inFirst FCU account was closed in January 2018 and assets transferred to B of A Savings. The B of A certificate of deposit matured on April 5, 2018 and assets were transferred to B of A Savings.)

INCOME	
Transfers of assets to Savings	\$16372.75
Income – State convention – Sales, Registration, Banquet	150.00
Interest income	19.19
Ten (10) % funds – National Dues	29822.11
Income – Mini-conference	2500.00
Other income	2570.00
CD Interest *	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	51434.05
EXPENSES	
Administration, General Routine Expenses	\$368.51
Alzheimer's - Lupus	50.00
Chapter Assistance	4409.30
Convention, Mini	11119.34
Convention, Maryland State	1146.96
Conference, NARFE National	762.92
Executive Committee	4282.74
Federation Board Meeting	4251.36
Legislation – Federal	1384.92
Legislation – State	4223.78
Membership Recruitment	637.08
Newsletter	976.81
Training	74.14
United Seniors MD (USM)	0.00
Web Site	133.35
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$33821.29
TOTAL INCOME – EXPENSES	\$17612.76

*CD interest of \$13.58 included in Transfers of Assets



Patricia Farmer, Secretary



SECRETARY'S REPORT

Barry Grier in his Public Relations Report states that August is a busy month. Well, I can say that the whole summer has been a busy one NARFE-wise for me. A lot of you have been recipients of the many informational emails from me. I have also responded to many member inquiries. Proof reading the 2018 Profiles in Civil Service, as a member of its Editorial Review Board, took up a great deal of time. There was also my effort to get guest speakers for our October Board Meeting. Then there was the layout of our Federation Fall 2018 newsletter. I feel tired just writing about it.

As the NARFE/MD representative to the Maryland Gerontological Association and its Vice President for Administration, I have been active this summer in helping our paid Coordinator with populating the new MGA website that she is creating. I provided some testimonials and am working on educational panels for a moving banner on the homepage. I am also drafting some requirements for a new membership database. I will keep you informed about any upcoming MGA events.

Congratulations to the new Chapter Presidents, six plus two Co-Presidents, by my count. This is great! Thanks for stepping up to leadership in your chapters and in NARFE/MD. Thanks for getting the F-7s up to date. I have e-mail exchanges with many of you this summer. If there is anything I can help with as you learn the "ropes," please let me know.

Some of you already know but I am proud to say that I was nominated and selected for induction into the 2018 Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame. This is a great honor for me to be recognized for my volunteer efforts. My Chapter 422 President **Barbara Hemming** nominated me and she had supporting letters from NARFE/MD, MGA, Laurel Chapter of The American Rosie the Riveter Association, Business & Professional Women of Maryland and my church. I know of at least seven NARFE/MD members who have been inducted in the MSCHF. So, I will be in good company when I am inducted at the luncheon in October.

See you at the October Board Meeting.



ALZHEIMER'S DONATION INFORMATION

The Maryland Federation has donated \$11,463 to Alzheimer's thus far in 2018. The three highest chapter donations are St. Mary's County, \$3,000; Ocean Area, \$1,498; and Rockville, \$1,200.

Make checks payable to NARFE Alzheimer's Research and mail to:

Eleanor Kaul, 8934 Executive Club Drive, Delmar, MD 21875-2366 /
eekaul@comcast.net / 410-896-4354



Eleanor Kaul
Coordinator, Federal Employee Education and Assistance – Scholarships and Disaster Fund
Coordinator, Alzheimer’s Research Fund

NARFE Scholarship Awards
or Disaster Fund
c/o FEEA
3333 S. Wadsworth Blvd., Suite 300
Lakewood, CO 80227

FEEA UPDATE

FEEA Scholarships

The Federal Employees Education and Assistance (FEEA-NARFE) Annual Scholarship Awards Program awards \$1,000 scholarships to two high school seniors in each NARFE Region. Maryland is in Region II. The NARFE-FEEA Steve Bauer Scholarship Awards Program form is available by email at scholarship@narfe.org.

NOW is the time to start the application process. The criteria are for high school seniors with at least a 3.0 Grade Point Average (GPA) on an un-weighted 4.0 scale. The deadline for submissions is Friday, April 26, 2019. The 2019 scholarship information will be in the February *narfe* Magazine, or email at scholarship@narfe.org, or call Headquarters at 703-838-7760.

A 2018 scholarship was awarded to Margaret Dolbin, of Silver Spring, sponsored by Richard Rothstein, of the Silver Spring-Leisure World Chapter 1143. Since 2014, the Maryland Federation has had seven scholarship winners.

FEEA Disaster Fund

NARFE also partners with FEEA on a Disaster Relief Fund to aid federal employees who are victims of declared natural disasters. Cash grants of up to \$500 maximum are available to all NARFE members in good standing who have been injured, incurred property damage or have other needs during and after a declared natural disaster. The grants do NOT have to be repaid.

Donations

Donations to these two separate funds are tax-deductible. See the *narfe* Magazine for contribution instructions. The address to which the contribution should be sent is listed on the back of the forms and provided in the box above. Please indicate to which fund— scholarship or disaster— the donation is being made.



Maryland Federation of NARFE: Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/NARFEMDFED/>
Website – www.mdnarfe.org

PUBLIC RELATIONS



Barry Grier
Public Relations Chair

AUGUST IS BUSY. MAKE THE BEST OF IT!

August is a great month to map out the rest of the year's programs as well as begin to prepare for 2019. Don't forget we are headed into NARFE's benefits fair season this fall, which should be of interest to your Chapter. Speaking of the benefits fair, it is also an ideal time to solicit speakers for our chapter programs and the fairs are a great place to pick up some interesting speakers and topics.

By the way, when you are lining up speakers, you might consider taking a survey of your members regarding what topics they may be interested in during the year. While you are looking into speakers, etc., give some attention to your recruiting methods and what works and what has not shown promise. Let's face it, recruiting new members is the bedrock of all of our chapters if we are to survive.

Leave us not forget the Granddaddy of all activities in August: The NARFE Premier Conference, August 26-28 in Jacksonville, Fla., at the Hyatt Regency, Jacksonville waterfront. NARFE has scheduled a great lineup of speakers, covering a multitude of topics, including chapter leadership sessions and legislative advocacy, which during these times is most critical. Also, make sure your active federal employee members are aware of the conference, so they may be able to get administrative leave to attend. Check out the current *narfe* Magazine for a complete FEDcon18 agenda.

On your return from the conference, make sure you give a complete report to your chapter and photos in your chapter newsletter to give an overall picture of what you have experienced with your fellow NARFE members. Meeting fellow members from across the country will give chapter members an idea of what problems and solutions are shared by other chapters. You'll find that chapters from coast to coast have the same problems we all do and solutions are available as well at the conference assemblies.

In case you need more on your plate for August, and since there are no chapter meetings, consider making plans for the Maryland Federation Biennial Conference, May 5-7, 2019, at the Dunes Manor Hotel in Ocean City, Md. The federation conference committee is in the midst of putting the finishing touches on the agenda, which is developing into quite a fantastic array of program topics and guest speakers. The hotel amenities should also make for a great experience for conference attendees. Further information on the conference will be provided at the Maryland Federation Fall Board Meeting.

As you can see, August is a busy month, so make the most of it.

**PHOTOS FROM MARYLAND FEDERATION OF NARFE MINI-CONFERENCE
BY MD FEDERATION PHOTOGRAPHER MELINDA SCOTT**



The Honorable Rona Kramer, Esq., Secretary, Maryland Department of Aging, a keynote speaker at the Mini-Conference, previewed a number of initiatives for Maryland seniors.



Steve Lenkart, candidate for National NARFE President, addressed attendees on his qualifications for the office.



NARFE/MD President Dr. Gary Roundtree Sr. (left) thanks Delegate Adrienne Jones, Speaker Pro Tem, for being our Keynote speaker on day 2 of the Mini-Conference.



Eleanor Kaul, Federation Alzheimer's Chair, (left) and Kathy Siggins, Alzheimer's advocate and member of Chapter 409, greet members at the Alzheimer's table.

VENDORS AT MINI-CONFERENCE



GEHA Health Insurance



Brooke Grove Retirement Village



Maryland Relay



Kaiser Permanente Health Insurance

AROUND THE FEDERATION



On June 8, 2018, Dr. Gary Roundtree, President, NARFE Maryland Federation, and Dr. Sudha Haley, 1st Vice President, NARFE Maryland Federation, briefed the NARFE Hagerstown Chapter 306 and installed the newly elected officers for the 2018-2020 term.

Pictured are: Dr. Gary Roundtree (right) with newly elected officers at NARFE Hagerstown Chapter 306. From right: Pandi Reed, Treasurer; Patricia Nix, President; Ed Reed, Vice President; and Barb Ware, Secretary.



Bay Area Chapter 44th Anniversary and Installation of Officers
New Officers: Joy Evans, Treasurer; Arlene Quigley, Secretary; Steve Groom, 1st Vice President; and Jo Anne Groves, President



**National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association
Maryland Federation – Chartered April 5, 1956**



Maryland Federation Newsletter

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2018 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| August 26-28 | • FEDcon18, Jacksonville, Florida |
| October 1 | • Maryland Federation Executive Committee Meeting, 3 p.m., Comfort Inn Conference Center, Bowie, Md. |
| October 2 | • Maryland Federation Board Meeting, Comfort Inn Conference Center, Bowie, Md. |
| October 26 | • Maryland Federation Training Day, Comfort Inn Conference Center, Bowie, Md. |
| November 26 | • Newsletter Deadline – Articles due for Winter Edition |