



MARYLAND FEDERATION NEWSLETTER WINTER 2018-2019



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dr. Gary Roundtree Sr.

BUILD RETIREE POWER

Since being elected President of the Maryland Federation, I have had laser focus on Educating and Empowering our members on the opportunities to improve their skills as grassroots activists and to learn more about retirement security issues, by bringing in expert speakers on Social Security, Medicare and other retiree issues with focus on the opportunities and challenges we will face in 2019.

Over the last year we have had unprecedented engagement with our elected officials. During the summer, Dr. Sudha Haley and I visited chapters on our Spotlight Tour 2018, talking about sound solutions to the multi-employer pension crisis and ensuring that elected officials hear our voices on the matter.

Our Profiles in Civil Service Golden Edition 2019 - Tell Us Your Story will consist of profiles from the Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia and Pennsylvania Federations. Storytelling is the foundation upon which we build retiree power. Don't think you have a compelling firsthand story? You would be surprised. We want to listen and understand why you think retirement security is an issue worth fighting for.

At our upcoming 2019 Biennial Conference in Ocean City, Maryland, you will hear from dynamite speakers such as AFGE National President J. David Cox Sr.; Dr. Adam Robinson, Director of the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care System; National Association of Letter Carriers National President Rolonda Fredrick; Postal Service, Alliance for Retired Americans Executive Vice President Jo Etta Brown; NARFE National NARFE President Ken Thomas; and Grand Alliance Partners. There will also be many workshop presenters from various organizations.

We plan to hold a successful new voting process for electing new Maryland Federation Officers this coming year of 2019. We are under the new system of One Member One Vote. All voting is by members by ballot with one vote each. Ballot vote by membership is required for the election of Maryland Federation Officers, National Officers and RVPs. I have called a Special Meeting of the EXCOMM to discuss this important matter at hand on Dec. 4, 2018.

Our opponents continue to claim that the wealthiest earners and CEOs need more tax breaks, and that we should cut Social Security and Medicare to pay for it. That's outrageous. We must remain steadfast in our core beliefs and continue to confront our opponents head on.

Let's build on what we have accomplished. As we saw in the midterm elections and throughout the year, the voices of seniors and active and retired federal employees will never be silenced.

DR. GARY ROUNDTREE SR.

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Federation Directory

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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	Sarah Richards
422	Laurel	Samuel Raines		N.W. Baltimore Metro,	Barbara Cuffie
969	St. Mary's County	Boyd Loflin	1936	Co-Presidents.....	Bessie Johnson
1127	Rockville	Jennifer Ramsey	1936	Waldorf/La Plata.....	Edward Holland
1143	Leisure World	John Moens	1972	Eastern Baltimore Area.....	Jerry Kerner
1260	Southern P.G. County	William Guthrie	2166	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.			

The Maryland Federation Newsletter is published three times a year: Spring, Fall, Winter by the Maryland Federation, NARFE, 310 High Gables Drive, Apt. 205. Gaithersburg, MD 20872-7424. *Editor:* Patricia Farmer, 301-776-4645, buttonspaf@aol.com.

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LEGISLATIVE

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

LEGISLATIVE REPORT



Is your Chapter President inviting us to one of your 2019 Chapter meetings? **Federation President Dr. Gary Roundtree Sr.** and I are moving forward on our **Chapter Spotlight Tour**. In 2018, we visited Chapters 126; 251; 258; 306; 422; 969; 1143; 1260; 1363; 1372; 1466; 1522; 1887; 1892; 1972; 1936; and 2262 by invitations from Chapter Presidents. We have accepted invitations in 2019 on February 11, for Chapter 1888, from President **Marcia Swanson**; on April 18, Chapter 1747, President **Frank Lee**; April 23, Chapter 1127, President **Jennifer Ramsey**; and April 29, Chapter 1770, President **James Wood**.

As indicated in my last Newsletter message, our Chapter Spotlight Tour is to pay attention to each member and gain insights for the future of our Maryland Federation. What shift in our Federation's Mission, Focus, and Priorities should your Federation leadership be pursuing for real and sustainable improvements? We have already resolved several critical issues raised by Chapter members during our visits. Still in process are changes on the membership application form and Chapter Presidents obtaining the list of National members, among other concerns.

On your behalf, we continue rigorous communications with our Lawmakers and their staffs including visits to Capitol Hill and Annapolis. We brought to you **Congressman Jamie Raskin's Chief of Staff Julie Tagen** (former NARFE National Legislative Director). She presented and described several bills in Congress, and particularly the leadership of Congressman Raskin and our Maryland Lawmakers to provide a pay increase for our active federal employees.

It was indeed a mega thrill at our October Board meeting, when our Maryland Federation hosted one of the highest-ranking Congressional Leaders, **Democratic Whip (soon to be Majority Leader) Congressman Steny Hoyer (MD-05)**. We attribute his presence to our energized advocacy efforts, including letters to the editors written by our Public Relations Director **Barry Grier** and St. Mary's Chapter President **Boyd Loflin**. We sealed the deal through our collaboration with Congressman Hoyer's staff: **Delegate Jazz Lewis; District Director Betsy Bossart; and Legislative Director Keith Abouchar**. Our Champion Congressman Hoyer informed us of legislation he was proposing and sponsoring that continues to protect and enhance our pay and benefits. Congressman Hoyer even extended his time with us to patiently respond to our Board members' questions. [Please note photo of our Federation officers, including new **Region II Vice President Kathy Adams** who said it was among the best meetings she has ever attended in the Region!]

For our Training Day on October 26, we brought in **Senator Chris Van Hollen's** Policy Advisor **Harry Stein**. He described the status of some of the legislation critical to our needs, especially Social Security 2100 Act: S. 2671, which Senator Van Hollen has cosponsored. Our Federation Treasurer **Dr. Dick Strombotne** provided Mr. Stein with his insights on this legislation, which makes comprehensive improvements to the Social Security program. On Training Day, we also disseminated a form for Chapter Presidents to share with members and return data to our Federation Secretary **Patricia Farmer**. Your information would recommend the best speakers for future Chapter meetings across our Federation. All these free Speakers' expertise and contact information will be published in our forthcoming **Handbook for Chapter Presidents**.

As you have surmised from above, our meetings are inspiring and energizing. I therefore urge each of you to plan to attend future Federation Board meetings, Training and Conferences. If you are eager to learn more about pending Legislation, contact and join our Federal Legislative Chair **Dr. Bruce Fowler** and State Legislative Chair **Paul Schwartz** as they interact with our Lawmakers on Capitol Hill and in Annapolis. Definitely plan to participate in our Federation's **"Crusade to Capitol Hill"** on **March 13, 2019**, and register for the **NARFE National Legislative Conference (LEGcon19)** in Virginia, on **March 10-13**.

We thank all the productive **NARFE-PAC Chapter Coordinators**, our unsung heroes, for their successful mobilizing of NARFE-PAC donors. In addition, we are grateful to our members for generously contributing, so we can continue to elect lawmakers who deliver on NARFE issues. Most of all, we want to warmly welcome to our Federation our National Leader **NARFE National President Ken Thomas**.



Training Day, Oct. 26, 2018 L-R: Maryland Delegate Edith J. Patterson; Senator Chris Van Hollen's Prince George's County Regional Director Pokuaa Owusu-Acheaw and Policy Advisor Harry Stein; MD Federation 1st Vice President and Legislative Director Dr. Sudha Haley and MD Federation President Dr. Gary Roundtree

FEDcon18: Conference attendees from NARFE Maryland gather for a group photo in Jacksonville, Florida

Oct. 2, 2018 Board Meeting: L-R: President Dr. Gary Roundtree Sr.; Julie Tagen, Chief of Staff for Representative Jamie Raskin; and 1st VP and Legislative Director Dr. Sudha Haley



2018 Profiles in Civil Service: Members of the Profiles Editorial Board present a copy of the 2018 Profiles in Civil Service book to Senator Chris Van Hollen, who wrote the Foreword, along with Senator Benjamin Cardin.

NARFE/MD Oct. 2, 2018 Board Meeting: L-R: Incoming Region II VP Kathleen Adams; MD Federation President Gary Roundtree; Congressman Steny Hoyer; Dr. Bruce Fowler; Dr. Sudha Haley; and outgoing Region II VP Evelyn Kirby



Paul Schwartz
State Legislative Committee Chair

STATE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE (SLC) REPORT

Are you angry yet? No? Well if you are a Maryland taxpayer who ordinarily had itemized deductions on your Maryland state tax returns, then you should be!

Who should you be angry with, you ask? The answer to that question is: With your elected officials in Annapolis who failed to protect you from the tax hike imposed on your 2018 state income taxes resulting from the federal tax plan passed last year and effective on your 2018 taxes.

It's not as if there weren't some bills submitted that attempted to do just that. There were bills that called for decoupling state deductions from federal deductions. Currently, because itemization at the state level is tied to the Federal Schedule A, if you take the now increased standard deductions on your Federal return, you are precluded from itemizing on your Maryland state return. These bills never made it out of committee during the 2018 legislative session in Annapolis. As well, neither did bills designed to put back many of the middle-class tax deductions at the state level that were removed in the federal tax plan.

Another manner in which to mitigate the increased state tax burden for those who ordinarily itemized would have been to simply raise the standard deduction at the state level. This they did, but nowhere near the level needed to counter the increased state tax burden. The legislation that was passed to increase the state standard deduction amounts to an extra \$20 to \$40 per taxpayer. To that, I say, don't spend it all in one place.

As I have written in the past, this is your money, not the state's. Whatever small benefit you might see at the federal level was not intended to be swallowed up by the state. The windfall for the state coffers were estimated to exceed the \$500 million mark of which the state had no difficulty finding places on which to spend it.

Certainly, this is not a problem that will cease to exist after just one year. Until it is addressed, Maryland taxpayers will continue to experience the state tax hike year after year after year. Moreover, the longer it takes to fix the injustice, the more used to the windfall and the spending ability that comes with it will be our elected officials.

This issue is, more than anything, a math issue. If you deduct less, you pay more. If you deduct more, you pay less. If any legislator tells you the reason legislation was not passed is because "It is too soon," suggest they retake high school math.

Why, then, did your legislators really fail to correct this easily correctable problem with the bills submitted during last year's legislative session you wonder? Well, here is a response to that very question from just one of your state delegates, Geraldine Valentino-Smith: "As you may be aware, there were bills, introduced during the 2018 legislative session, which would have allowed Marylanders to itemize their deductions on their State returns even if they did not on their Federal returns. The Ways and Means Committee received guidance from Comptroller Peter Franchot's office and the Maryland Association of Certified Public Accountants (CPAs) who warned that there are administrative complexities in doing so. Particularly relating to the State's ability to piggyback off of Federal IRS tax audits and that it could be confusing for the overall majority of Maryland taxpayers. After receiving that advice from the Comptroller's Office and the Association of CPAs, the Committee did not pass the bill."

Let me translate this explanation for you. What is being said is that the reason for the failure of the legislation to be passed is because the Comptroller said that he needs more staff to take on the additional work that would be created if itemizing at the state level was no longer based on the Federal Schedule A.

Okay, HIRE MORE STAFF NOW and you can even take some of the windfall to pay for it. (On the other hand, now that there will be significantly less itemization at the state level, does that not free up current staff to take on more work?)

Bottom line? There is power in numbers and if you want this injustice fixed, you, every one of you, must raise your voice and make your concern heard by the very elected officials who turned a blind eye to fixing it last year. If you do not make it clear to your legislators that you take this issue seriously and will hold them accountable for not protecting your interests, they won't.

How do you make your concerns raised to your legislators? Well, thanks to your State Legislation Committee that task has been made quite simple. Google "MD NARFE", click on the "Maryland Federation of NARFE" and then click on "Legislative – State Page" in the upper right-hand corner. You will then have access to an abundance of important information on this tax issue as well as "What you can do about it." The "What you can do about it" link will enable you to directly contact your elected officials in Annapolis, as well as provide you with a sample letter that can be used in the process. It is REALLY user friendly.

Time to get angry and time to express that anger in a productive manner. Go for it! The money you save will be your own.

SCAM ALERT:

Federation and Chapters Officers, especially Treasurers, please be aware of people who are trying to scam you out of money through email. Someone posing in email as your Federation or Chapter President sends an email requesting you to provide him/her with a check for a certain amount of money. The email address shows your president's name but the underlying email address is not his or hers. If you want to make sure it is the correct address for your president, hover your cursor over the sender information and it will give you the real underlying address of the scammer. Take precaution and by no means send any money without verifying that the request is legitimate.



Edward Reed

2nd Vice President, Membership



Recruit Prospective Members!

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

My End-Of-2018 MEMBERSHIP REPORT (with some help from an article by Sarah Richards, President of MD NARFE Chapter 1892) will center on some of my learnings at FEDcon18, more specifically in NARFE's Chapter Development and our need to change some of our ways of doing Chapter/Membership business. One specific change noted by Cynthia D'Amour, a featured MBA speaker at FEDcon18, was in the "Care and Feeding of (our Chapters') members - so that they can go out and protect our (hard-earned) federal benefits." She advocated "Shifting-Up our Chapter meetings" with changes; "Don't have same event, same month each year" and "Help (your Chapter members) build relationships with each other -- keeps them coming back."

At our Oct. 26, 2018, Maryland Federation Training Day, Ms. Richards' dynamic "Chapter Meeting Change Exercise" showed: New Meeting Design Elements (I.e., Topic, Focus, Title, Learning, Helping and How To Make It Fun) - experiences that "WOWED US ALL" when we heard them recited, aloud!

Some additional Leadership and Development advice and ideas given by Ms. D'Amour were: "Allow others to play (No martyrs); Ensure (your Chapter) members are heard - listen and then give them what they want; Ask What did we accomplish today? Appreciate and recognize people for their efforts and NEVER CRITICIZE!" (Links and additional information for Ms. D'Amour's sessions are at: <http://www.peoplepowerunlimited.com>).

One Membership Related Book, by Ms. D'Amour, which I would recommend reading is: "How to Recruit Generation Me."

I would remind all readers: "Dec. 31, 2018 is the wrap-up date for our NARFE Membership Recruitment Campaign at NARFE HQS." To receive your \$10.00/NARFE National and \$10.00/MD Federation Recruitment Reward monies, all F-135 Applications must Include your name and your NARFE I.D. Number on the forms.

In conclusion, as good NARFE members, Appendix C of The Membership Prospecting, Recruiting and Retention Manual states: "NARFE members have always been key in Recruitment and Retention," as well as "They are key in dramatically expanding prospecting efforts."

HAVE WE GIVEN OUR LOCAL U.S.P.S. DELIVERY PERSON AN F-135, YET?

REPORTS, NEWS, EVENTS AND INFORMATION

KATHY ADAMS REGION II VICE PRESIDENT



Hi Maryland NARFE members: I am the new Region II Vice President as of November 1, 2018. I have been a NARFE member since 2000. I have served as Treasurer, First Vice President, then President of my Chapter for eight years. I also completed four years as Delaware's Federation President.

I was born in Honolulu, Hawaii, on the island of Oahu.

I am looking forward to working with all of you as a team that will move NARFE forward in the near future. Here are some items that may interest you.

- a. Ken Thomas gained the largest number of points and has been elected as the National President of NARFE for 2018 - 2020. Also, the new Region I RVP is Jim Risner.
- b. The Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for 2019 is as follows: CSRS retirees and Social Security recipients will receive 2.8% in their benefits next year. Because the COLA is greater than 2% but less than 3%, FERS retirees will see a 2% increase in their annuities next year.
- c. Maryland currently has 6,420 non-members and 8,183 chapter members, for a total of 14,603 members as of October.
- d. As of September 30, 2018, the NARFE fundraising total for Alzheimer's is \$12,836,372.84.

Here are some notes from my first **National Executive Board (NEB) Meeting**:

The first meeting for the 2018 - 2020 National Executive Board (NEB) was held at NARFE HQ from November 28 through November 30, 2018. There were six new individuals joining the NEB for the first time. (Many portions of the meeting were conducted in Executive Session).

The meeting began with a presentation by NARFE Attorney Eileen Johnson on the importance of Confidentiality/Non-Disclosure Agreements and a presentation by NARFE Parliamentarian on the proper use of Robert's Rules of Order and the establishment of special and standing committees. We also had a presentation by Federal Employee Education and Assistance (FEEA) Executive Director Joyce Warner on the status of the FEEA Scholarship and Disaster Fund and the future relationship between NARFE and FEEA.

SVP Jessica Klement gave us an update of the Advocacy Department. Postal Reform was discussed and they are working to introduce legislation to provide FERS retirees with the same COLA as CSRS retirees. NARFE PAC more than doubled its contributions from NARFE members resulting in \$920,000 in contributions.

SVP Helen Mosher provided an update on the efforts of the Communications Department. The update primarily addressed efforts to expand the awareness of NARFE within the Federal employee community.

SVP Johann Castro gave us an excellent budget review explaining revenue and expenses for all departments. Membership dues revenue and non-dues revenue was discussed in depth. He also provided an update on the Association Management Support System (AMS), which begins early 2019.

The NEB also discussed increased access to the NARFE database of National-Only members by Federation Officers. NARFE will be a 100-year Association in 2021. If any member would like to serve on the Centennial Committee, please let me know.

Federation Presidents accepted the new application forms.

The next NEB meeting will be held March 8 - 10, 2019 at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center in Alexandria, Va., prior to LEGcon19 (National Legislative Training Conference). Don't forget to register!

I would personally like to wish all of the members of NARFE/MD a very happy and healthy holiday. Be safe. See all of you in 2019!

FINANCIAL



Dick Strombotne
Treasurer

TREASURER'S REPORT

Federation Finances as of October 31, 2018. At the start of 2018, the Maryland Federation's net assets totaled \$102,042. As of October 31, 2018, they totaled \$93,846 for a **year-to-date deficit of \$8,196**. The most significant revenues came from ten-percent funds (\$41,766). See detailed summary in table below.

Net Assets. The Federation's net assets as of October 31, 2018 included: Bank of America Checking - \$6,353.15 and B of A Savings - \$87,493.21. Net assets total \$93,846.36 (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	28.36
Ten (10) % funds – National Dues	41765.58
Income – Mini-conference	2500.00
Other income	3170.00
CD Interest *	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	63986.69
EXPENSES	
Administration, General Routine Expenses	\$486.68
Alzheimer's - Lupus	50.00
Chapter Assistance	4399.30
Convention, Mini	11139.44
Convention, Maryland State	1933.12
Conference, NARFE National	6170.76
Executive Committee	5107.54
Federation Board Meeting	8899.44
Legislation – Federal	4658.02
Legislation – State	5659.19
Membership Recruitment	677.08
Newsletter	2369.28
Training	4075.32
United Seniors MD (USM)	0.00
Web Site	133.35
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$55918.52
TOTAL INCOME – EXPENSES	\$8068.17

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

Reminder: If you receive a reimbursement check from the Maryland Federation of NARFE, please deposit it promptly.



Patricia Farmer, Secretary



SECRETARY'S REPORT

I am giving up my Secretary's Report space to provide you with an article on the Maryland Federation's new voting process for One Member – One Vote (OMOV). In this newsletter, there is also a formal call for nominations for officers and a formal call for proposed Bylaws/Resolutions as well as a timeline for the voting process. Please read them.

NARFE/MD NEW VOTING PROCESS

One Member – One Vote (OMOV) Starts in 2019

The approval of the Federation Bylaws changes at the 2017 MD Federation Mini-Convention was the end of delegate voting for transacting the business of the MD Federation. One Member - One Vote provides each member of the MD Federation and National Only members who live in Maryland the opportunity to cast a ballot for election of officers, bylaws changes and resolutions.

To implement this change, 2019 voting will be done by paper ballot. For all MD Federation members and National Only members who have email, the ballot will be sent to you by email for you to print, fill out, stamp and return by postal mail based on instructions on the ballot. For the MD Federation members and National Only members in Maryland who do not have an email address, you will request a paper ballot be sent to you for voting. Information on how to request your ballot will appear in the February 2019 issue of the *narfe magazine*. In order for your vote to count, you must sign the ballot and provide your NARFE member ID number. These ballots must be returned in a timely manner and postmarked no later than April 15, 2019 for your vote to count. Detailed instructions will be included in the ballot you receive.

An Election 2019 Page will be set up on the Maryland Federation's website www.mdnarfe.org for information about the election and balloting. An announcement about the link will be sent out as soon as possible.

If you have any proposals for amendments to the Maryland Federation Bylaws or proposed Resolutions for Federation members to consider and vote on, send them in to the Bylaws/Resolutions Committee Co-Chair John Stackpole at jstackpole@alum.mit.edu by the deadline of Feb. 1, 2019.

If you have any nominations for officers of the Maryland Federation, send them in to Nominating Committee Chair Larry Walton, lwalto@yahoo.com by the deadline of Feb. 15, 2019.

A formal call for both Nominations and Bylaws/Resolutions is included in this newsletter.

The slate of candidates, proposed bylaw changes and resolutions will be available by March 1, 2019 and will be included in the final version of the ballot by March 5, 2019. The final ballot will be provided to the Ballot and Teller Committee. Next, the slate of candidates, proposed bylaw changes and resolutions will be published by March 22, 2019 in the Maryland Federation Spring Newsletter and Emailed through the NES (NARFE Email System).

The 2019 ballot will be printed and mailed by March 25, 2019 to those members without email addresses who have sent a self-addressed stamped envelope and requested a ballot for voting. On the same date, a ballot will be emailed to members who have an email address. Those members are requested to print the ballot, fill it out, sign it and return it as directed. To vote, you must mark your ballot, affix a postage stamp to the self-addressed ballot, and mail it on or before April 15, 2019.

The Ballot and Teller Committee will receive and count the ballots in time for the Federation President and Ballot and Teller Committee Chair to jointly announce the results by May 1, 2019. The new Federation Officers will be installed at the Biennial Conference on May 6. Full coverage of our first federation-wide ballot voting will be included in the 2019 Fall Newsletter.

TIMELINE FOR 2019 OMOV ELECTION PROCESS FOR MARYLAND FEDERATION

Dec. 10, 2018	Reminder of Bylaws/Resolutions Deadline in Winter Newsletter plus Email through NARFE Email System (NES)
Dec. 10, 2018	Call for Nominations for Elected Office in Winter Newsletter
Dec. 15, 2018	Federation Announcement of Election Process Due for <i>narfe</i> magazine
Feb. 1, 2019	Bylaws/Resolutions Due Directly to Resolutions Committee Chair John Stackpole
Feb. 5, 2019	Draft Budget Approved at Board Meeting
Feb. 10, 2019	Bylaws/Resolutions to Committee Members
Feb. 15, 2019	Officer Nominations to Nominations Committee Chair Larry Walton
Feb. 20, 2019	Bylaws/Resolutions Committee Comments Due
March 1, 2019	Bylaws/Resolutions/Nominations to Editor and Ballot & Teller Chair
March 5, 2019	Ballot Creation Date - Final Version
March 22, 2019	Bylaws/Resolutions and Candidate Statement in Spring Newsletter plus by Email through NES
March 25, 2019	Paper Ballots Sent by Postal Mail and Electronically by Email through NES
March 26, 2019	Voting Begins
April 15, 2019	Voting Ends / Ballots Due Back
April 30, 2019	Ballot Counting by Ballot and Teller Committee
May 3, 2019	Voting Results Announced
May 6, 2019	New Officers Installed at Biennial Conference in Ocean City
Aug. 16, 2019	Voting Results Covered in Federation Fall Newsletter

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### **Formal Call for Nominations for Maryland Federation Officers**

Larry Walton, Nominations Committee Chair

Maryland Federation officers to serve two-year terms will be part of the Maryland Federation's One Member – One Vote (OMOV) Voting Process in 2019. The Nominating Committee needs the help of all chapters and members in fielding candidates for the offices of Federation President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

If you have any nominations for officers of the Maryland Federation, send them to Nominating Committee Chair Larry Walton at [lrwalto@yahoo.com](mailto:lrwalto@yahoo.com), or 8 Martinique Circle, Berlin, MD 21811-1703 by the deadline of Feb. 15, 2019. Contact Nominating Chair Larry Walton for a Nomination Form.

All Candidates running for office will be listed on the 2019 voting ballot. Voters may write in a candidate on the ballot.

Other members of the Nominating Committee are: Antoinette Jeffries, Chapter 2262 Upper Marlboro; Virginia Bender, Chapter 2274 Ocean Area; and Melinda Scott, Chapter 1747 Greater Bowie Crofton.

## Formal Call for Proposals for Bylaws Amendments and Resolutions

John Stackpole and Saj Durrani, Co-Chairs, Bylaws/Resolutions Committee

Proposed Bylaws amendments and Resolutions will be part of the new Maryland Federation One Member – One Vote (OMOV) Voting Process starting in 2019. The Bylaws/Resolutions Committee needs the help of all chapters/members in submitting proposals for Bylaws amendments and Resolutions, which will be listed on the voting ballot for adoption or rejection.

If you have proposals for amendments to the Maryland Federation Bylaws or proposed Resolutions for Federation members to consider and vote on, send them in directly by the deadline of February 1, 2019 to Bylaws/Resolutions Committee Co-Chair John Stackpole at [jstackpo@alum.mit.edu](mailto:jstackpo@alum.mit.edu), or 401 Epworth Court, #524, Solomons, MD 20688-3034.

Contact John Stackpole if you need the appropriate format for Bylaws/Resolutions proposals.

Besides the Co-Chairs, other members of the Bylaws/Resolutions Committee are: Barbara Cuffie, Chapter 1936 Northwest Baltimore Metro; Charles Harrison, Chapter 2306 Carroll County/Westminster; Larry Lange, Chapter 258 Western Montgomery County; Sarah Richards, Chapter 1892 Aspen Hill; and Stuart Sklamm, Chapter 1888 White Oak. The Maryland Federation Executive Committee members are also members of the Bylaws/Resolutions Committee.

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Edward Holland, Programs Chair



PROGRAMS REPORT

As the newly appointed Chair of the Programs Committee, I am responsible for securing speakers/guest participants for all Federation meetings and events, to include the three Board meetings per year (February, May and October); the Mini-Conference; the Biennial Conference; Training Day; and any other ad-hoc event such as candidate forums. To date, I have secured Delegate Edith Patterson and Congressional Policy Advisor Harry Stein, both of whom spoke at the October 26, 2018 Training Day. Presently, my committee and I are working on confirming speakers for the 2019 Biennial Conference. In addition to the Programs Committee, I am on the FLC Committee – District 7 - Elijah E. Cummings. I am also the President of NARFE Chapter 1972 Waldorf/La Plata.

As it pertains to the Programs Committee, Vice Chair Thomas Hill is assisting with confirming speakers for upcoming Federation events. To date, Tom has connected with three speakers for the 2019 Biennial Conference. Tom retired as an Information Technology Specialist with the U.S. Department of the Navy after 31 years as a civilian Federal employee. He is an active member of NARFE Chapter 1972.

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



Eleanor Kaul

*Coordinator, Federal Employee and Education 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.

ALZHEIMER'S DONATION INFORMATION

The Maryland Federation has donated \$16,344.19 to Alzheimer's as of June 30, 2018 - **\$206.71** less than last year. The three highest chapter donations are: St. Mary's County 969, \$3,000; Chapter 2274 Ocean Area, \$1,498; and Chapter 1127 Rockville, \$1,200.

For the period July 1, 2018 through August 3, 2018 on the Region II level, Pennsylvania donated \$2,464 and Maryland gave \$1,397.50.

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

Eleanor Kaul, 8934 Executive Club Drive, Delmar, MD 21875-2366

[eekaul@comcast.net](mailto:EEKaul@comcast.net) / 410-896-4354

Please mail your checks as soon as possible after the end of the year.

Remember to have your CHAPTER NUMBER on the checks.

PUBLIC RELATIONS



Barry P. Grier
Public Relations Chair

NARFE MAGAZINE: READ IT COVER TO COVER!

One of the most important benefits of being a member of NARFE is the excellent reservoir of information that is funneled out of the monthly *narfe* magazine. There are very few examples among active as well as retired federal periodicals that are as compressive as the *narfe* magazine. In fact, the magazine itself is well worth maintaining a NARFE membership.

The magazine, under the present editor and staff, has made a significant improvement in the last couple of years and has delivered excellence in providing us with information vital in our retirement years in keeping us abreast of what is happening on Capitol Hill. Also, there are always a few well-researched articles in support of our active federal employee members and their present plight amidst the somewhat ugliness of those congressional debates, for instance, check out the new addition to the magazine with the "NARFE BILL TRACKER." This new and innovative section gives us an excellent means of keeping track, as the name implies, with the latest legislative actions on Capitol Hill and which prospective bills and resolutions pertinent to our organization that not only points out who sponsored the actions but also what the particular Bill would do. This section is a perfect recruiting tool when giving presentations to potential new members. It's an equally important addition to an overall presentation on the value of being a member of NARFE.

More importantly, you will find the magazine a powerful tool when speaking at pre-retirement seminars. I always order a number of magazines when scheduling such gatherings and find it to be a great two-pronged approach. First, to enlighten federal retirees and also to let them know that such information is received by our members on a monthly basis.

Coupled with the popular "Question and Answer" section, you will find that the *narfe* magazine with such standard articles can be a real asset for providing fertile ground for recruitment possibilities. By the way, don't forget to mention the section on Perks. All ears "perk up" when you mention these money saving perks. This is a real plus and is a real attention getter. Everybody loves "perks", especially when it comes to traveling with them.

Speaking of recruitment tools, leave us not forget that number one tool inside the *narfe* magazine: the NARFE membership application! I always have one in the car just in case I need to sign up a new member. Now you can understand what a vital "partner" our magazine can be to our mission in protecting our federal benefits as well as being an important asset in spreading the word. And, the word, of course, is NARFE.

Adding to all of the above, you will also find a series of in-depth articles on a number of subjects that always seem to be relevant to current government policies and procedures, covering a wide assortment of interest throughout the federal retirement community. Remember to bring along a number of NARFE magazines when attending any Fall Benefits Fairs. You will find them most beneficial in their subject matter during these agency-wide activities.

So, a SHOUT OUT seems appropriate to the editor and staff of the *narfe* magazine for a job well done! And, Thanks.

AROUND THE FEDERATION



Ed and Pandi Reed attended the MD Federation training on October 26, 2018 in Bowie. Ed is the MD Federation 2nd Vice President/Membership Director as well as Vice President of Hagerstown NARFE Chapter 306. Pandi Reed is Treasurer of Hagerstown NARFE Chapter 306.

Photo by: Antoinette Jeffries, President Chapter 2262

MARYLAND FEDERATION PHOTOGRAPHER IN AFRICA

Photos of our Federation photographer Melinda Scott while in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, at the Elephant Camp on Sept. 28, 2018



Melinda Scott with Jumbo, the elephant



Melinda Scott with Sylvester, the cheetah

KATHY SIGGINS RECEIVES DISTINGUISHED ANNUITANT AWARD

Elinor Abrell, President of Chapter 409, nominated Kathy Siggins, of Chapter 409, for the Blue Cross and Blue Shield FEHBP Account Management and OPM Relations DISTINGUISHED ANNUITANT AWARD. Kathy received the award for her extensive contributions to her chapter, community and to others. She is well known for her tireless support and advocacy for the Alzheimer's Association. She was the driving force behind the semi-postal Alzheimer's stamp and is now known as the "Stamp Lady." Congratulations Kathy on this well-deserved award.



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



Maryland Federation Newsletter

Protect Your Retirement

Maryland Federation of NARFE
Dick Strombotne
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

2019 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 25	Registration Deadline for Feb. 5 Board Meeting Executive
February 4	Committee Meeting, Comfort Inn, Bowie, Maryland
February 5	Federation Board Meeting, Comfort Inn, Bowie
February 5	Registration Deadline – LEGcon19 – Legislative Training
March 1	Federation Spring Newsletter Deadline – Articles Due
March 10-13	National Legislative Training Conference – LEGcon19
April 4	Registration for Maryland Biennial Conference, Ocean City
May 5-7	Maryland Federation Biennial Conference, Ocean City