



NARFE NOTES
NEWSLETTER OF CHAPTER 1260 OF THE NATIONAL
ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES
ASSOCIATION
SOUTHERN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

VOLUME 1

January/February 2019

THE NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION (NARFE) Southern Prince George's County, **Chapter 1260** will hold its next regularly scheduled meeting on **Thursday, January 17, 2019 at 6907 Oxon Hill Road, Oxon Hill, Maryland (Oxon Hill Jaycees), starting at 1 PM. Our next scheduled board meeting will also be on Thursday, January 17, 2019 at the Oxon Hill Jaycees location, starting at 11 AM.**

President's Corner

William Guthrie

Happy New Year, Chapter 1260. I hope everyone had a prosperous, healthy, and happy 2018. I'd like to thank the chapter officers who have contributed their time and effort in helping to keep our chapter alive into the New Year. We still have a few vacancies, especially the Recording Secretary vacancy I'd like to see filled. But we hope to continue on in spite of this and other vacancies. Speaking of vacancies, the Vice President opening has now been filled by Ms. Brenda Hill-Johnson. Thank you, Brenda for stepping into this vital position. I have asked Brenda to be in charge of selecting guest speakers for our chapter and she has brought forth several names who if approved by the board, will give us excellent topical information.

Diane Hostetler, Barbara Duffitt, and Pearl Parrish were the coordinators for our annual Christmas celebration at the Waldorf Jaycees. It turned out better than expected. We only attained the number needed (52) to break even at the very last minute. Everyone I spoke to seemed pleased with the food and agenda. We had Mr. Terry Reinhart again who brought us words of wisdom concerning tax issues and changes for 2018. Mr. Reinhart will be at our January meeting. We also had word games coordinated by Ms. Betty Branch. Diane Hostetler conducted the 50/50 drawings and door prizes.

I would also like to thank those who have volunteered their time in the past to make this Chapter a success and to keep it alive. Without their leadership this chapter may have folded, and if we don't continue to get members to step up to leadership positions, it may cease to exist in the future. Heartfelt thanks to Mrs. Bettie Hill, past President; Mr. Ed. Johnson, past Membership Chair; Ms. Cynthia Staples, past Recording Secretary and Mrs. Ann Carver-Jones, past Entertainment Chair. As mentioned above, Ms. Brenda Hill-Johnson has volunteered to be our Vice President and will be sworn in at the January meeting. But we desperately need a Recording Secretary. These members have aided the chapter with their contributions of time and talents. Will you step up and volunteer for this important position?

Please mark your calendars for the 3rd Thursdays of each month (with exception noted in this newsletter) to attend your chapter meetings. We have tremendous guest speakers lined up and it does not look good to have a guest speaker and very few members in attendance.

Chapter Calendar of Events

January 17, 2019 – Terry Reinhart will brief us on new tax issues.

Obtaining the NARFE Hotline

This weekly legislative message is emailed to NARFE members, posted on the NARFE website and available to NARFE members via telephone by calling 703-838-7780 and toll-free at 877-217-8234. Past editions are archived online for NARFE member access. If you have any questions regarding the information in this hotline, please email NARFE's legislative department at leg@narfe.org or call 703-838-7760.

SICK AND VIGIL

Diane Hostetler

.Get well cards were sent to Ann Carver-Jones and Vivian Sills.
Sympathy card was sent to Frances Pritchett for death of her husband.

NARFE Chapter 1260

Officers and Committee Chairs

President, William L. Guthrie, 301-249-3580
Past President, Bettie J. Hill, 301-203-7079
Vice President, Brenda Hill-Johnson,
Rec. Sec.- Vacant
Chaplain, Vacant
Treasurer, Janice Washington, 301-390-0930
Del. At Large, Diane Hostetler, 301-423-1374
Del. At Large, Pearl Parrish, 301-213-7543
Federal Legislation, Charles Pate, 301-646-9797
County Legislation, Vivian Sill, 301-630-3932
Membership, Felice Gant, 301-894-0882
Hospitality, Barbara Duffitt, 301-839-2103
State Legislation and Programs, Bettie J. Hill, 301-203-7079
Service Officer, Mary Scruggs, 301-894-3593
Sick & Vigil, Diane Hostetler, 301-423-1374
Newsletter Editor, Faye Bland, 301-839-6615
Alzheimer Coordinator, Diane Hostetler, 301-423-1374
Sgt-at-Arms, Ruth Shaw, 301-899-1019
Entertainment/Travel, Vacant

HOSPITALITY CHAIR **Barbara J. Duffitt**

Thanks to all who have donated goodies and sweets or money. We still need people to sign up for future meetings. See me at the hospitality table for monetary and/or sweet donations.

ALZHEIMER **Diane Hostetler**

The Alzheimer's basket will be on the table where you sign in at the next meeting. You can write a check or put in cash in whatever way you choose. If you wish to write a check please make it out as follows: TO LINE: Alzheimer Research/NARFE, and on the MEMO LINE: NARFE Chapter 1260.

In the state of Maryland there are over 100,000 persons with Alzheimer. This disease is the only disease in the top 10 killers without a way to prevent it, cure it or even slow its progression. Please consider donating.

For the Good of the Chapter

This article gives background on the MD tax issue and describes actions that members can take.

Maryland Income Taxes Again.....Dick Strombotne

If you usually claim the standard deduction on your Maryland income taxes, you can skip this article. It is intended to inform and advise people who usually claim itemized deductions on Maryland income taxes.

What is the problem? The big increase in the standard deduction on Federal tax makes it attractive for people to claim it for 2018. It saves money on federal taxes. If you do that then you cannot claim itemized deductions on your MD taxes. You can estimate how much your MD state and local taxes will increase easily. Look up the amount of itemized deductions on the MD tax return for 2017 Subtract the amount of MD standard deduction: \$4,500 for joint filers and \$2,250 for single filers. Multiply the result by 8%. That is the amount of the increase in your MD state and local taxes for 2018, roughly. If you don't like the result, read on.

Let your state legislators know that they need to roll back the increase in MD state and local income taxes on people who claim the Federal standard deduction. The Maryland General Assembly goes into its 90-day session January 9, just two days before our January 11 membership meeting. Call the toll-free number for the General Assembly, 1-800-492-7122, and tell the operator who you want to speak to. When you call a legislator's office a staff member will usually answer. Say who you are and that you are concerned about not being able to claim itemized deductions on your Maryland taxes. Key legislators are members of the House Ways and Means Committee (HW&M) and the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee (SB&T.) The Chair of SB&T is Senator Nancy King, District 39. The Chair of HW&M is Del. Anne Kaiser, District 14. Delegate-elect Julie Palakovitch Carr, District 17, will be a new member of HW&M. These senators and delegates have fellow members from their districts who can be called and asked to support legislation to fix the problem.

After legislation is introduced to address the problem there will be hearings by the relevant committees. Usually, there is only about two week notice of hearings. It is vitally important that NARFE members be present at those hearings to let the committee members know that the matter is important. You can park at the Navy- Marine stadium lot for \$5 and ride a shuttle to the General Assembly area of Annapolis for \$1. Hearings usually are scheduled to start at 1:00 pm and there is no telling when the bill of interest will be heard. Look for an email message from Chapter President Charlie Garfinkel to inform you about the key hearings. The website for Maryland General Assembly is at <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmlst.aspx?tab=home>. It is a marvelous source of information about committees, legislators, reports, etc.

Chapter 1260 WINTER INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY: Whenever Prince George's County Schools are cancelled, delayed opening, or dismissed early due to significant weather or snow, there will be no monthly NARFE Chapter 1260 meeting.



So. Prince George's County
Chapter 1260
301 Aden Court
Upper Marlboro, MD 20774

TIME DATED MATERIAL

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
So. MD.
Permit # 6119

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NARFE NOTES IS PUBLISHED EVERY TWO MONTHS - (BIMONTHLY). FIVE TIMES A YEAR. JANUARY, MARCH, MAY, SEPTEMBER, AND NOVEMBER, BY NARFE CHAPTER 1260, SOUTHERN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY. MEMBERS OF CHAPTER 1260 RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER AS PART OF THEIR DUES. DUES AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO NARFE ARE NOT DEDUCTIBLE AS CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR INCOME TAX PURPOSES

CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

If you no longer desire to receive the newsletter through the Post Office (a hard copy), but would prefer to receive an e-mail copy, let the Membership Chair, Felice Gant know.

If you receive your newsletter late (after our monthly meeting), please notify the newsletter editor, Faye Bland.