



Website: www.narfe.org/chapter422

Chapter 422 office hours: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays NOON to 3 PM

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Message from the President

We had a great February meeting; our speaker was Mr. Don Graham from Montpelier Historic Site (Montpelier Mansion), which is a part of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. He spoke on the history of the facility and the renovations taking place there. The entire presentation was very informative. Let's give Sara Walser a big thank you for getting the speakers for us. We also welcomed a new member, Sandra Ann Stoner, wife of our Newsletter Editor, Bill. Let's all give Sandy a warm welcome.

The Government shutdown is now over and all federal employees and contractors are hopefully back at work and, at least the federal employees, should have received all their back pay by now. During the shutdown FEEA gave out 412 NARFE/FEEA grants. As of today $\$100 \times 412 = \$41,200$ + recovery of admin costs = $\$10,300$ for a total of $\$51,500$.

Samuel J Raines, Sr.
President

NARFE Chapter Speaker @ March Meeting - Sara Walser, Program Officer

The March Chapter 422 meeting will be on Wednesday, March 6, 2019, at 1 p.m. at the Laurel-Beltsville Senior Activity Center, 7120 Contee Road, Laurel. We have invited Bill Stoner, our NARFE Chapter 422 Newsletter Editor, to speak about the literacy program that he started 33 years ago. The Greater Laurel Literacy Center, Inc., teaches adults basic reading and writing skills and is offered free to the community.

Maryland Federation of NARFE - Patricia Farmer, Secretary, NARFE/MD

Summary of Highlights from NARFE/MD Board Meeting – Feb. 5, 2019, Bowie Comfort Inn:

- Opening: President Dr. Gary Roundtree Sr. called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.
- Bowie-Crofton President Frank Lee introduced new member Charles Smith who was affected by the recent partial shutdown. His shutdown story was featured in the *Washington Post*. As a result of the affect the shutdown had on him, Charles decided to retire and is waiting for his papers to go through.
- President Dr. Gary Roundtree Sr. went over the Federation's reimbursement policy for those attending the National Legislative Training Conference (NLTC), March 10-13, at the Hilton Mark Center in Virginia.
- First Vice President and Legislative Director Dr. Sudha Haley talked about the Crusade to Capitol Hill on March 13. This is the day the NLTC attendees from NARFE/MD will visit Senators and Representatives on Capitol Hill.
- Guest Speaker John Koskinen, former IRS Commissioner, spoke to attendees and gave insights into his management style during his career. He made sure employees at all levels knew him and had the opportunity to ask questions and let him know about problems at any level. He stressed that the ethos in an organization is very important. As the lead for Y2K in the United States, and he subsequently became the lead in the world. As a result of his management and the people he worked closely with in government and the private sector, there was no disaster when we rolled over to the year 2000. He mentioned a few glitches, one in Japan and the other in the United States.
- William Guthrie, President Chapter 1260, Southern Prince George's, was inducted as a Board member by President Dr. Roundtree.
- Luncheon Speaker was Colonel William Pallozzi, Maryland Secretary of State Police. As such, he is a member of Governor Hogan's cabinet. He is responsible for the 23 Barracks of State Troopers within Maryland. His purview also includes an aviation section and the largest crime laboratory in the state. Maryland State Police began in 1921 and is now 98 years old. In keeping with its three missions, there is a Traffic Bureau, a Criminal Investigation Bureau and a Support Services Bureau. Colonel Pallozzi stressed that it is a dangerous, noble profession. The Polar Bear Plunge, sponsored by the State Police, is the largest single day fundraiser in the world. There are 152 Police Departments in the state of Maryland.
- New Region II Vice President Kathy Adams gave her report. Region II includes Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

RVP Adams reported items from the National Executive Board (NEB) meeting, including the existence of four new committees at the National level: Membership Committee; Non-Dues Revenue Committee; Building Committee (all reasonable options, even sale of the HQ building, which is large, with only 50 employees currently); and 2021 - 100th Anniversary Centennial Committee (Kathy Adams is Chair; Dr. Sudha Haley is one of committee volunteers).

- Dr. Bruce Fowler, Chair of the Federal Legislative Committee, said that the 2019 Profiles in Civil Service, Golden Edition, should be out in March and the NARFE/MD delegation from the NLTC will be taking copies to Capitol Hill to keep reminding Congress what federal employees do every day for this country.
- Paul Schwartz, Chair of the State Legislative Committee stressed the importance of NARFE/MD having a large contingent going to Annapolis on Feb. 13 for the hearing on HB 327, which would decouple Maryland from Federal taxes and allow taxpayers to itemize at the state level. He also urged members to give to MD-PAC because it allows us to meet/greet our state legislators and share with them our legislative interests. Toll free phone number for General Assembly: 1-800-492-7122. Tell the operator who you are and your organization and that you support HB 327 and why. Also, you can go to LWV.org to get a phone number and email address for a specific lawmaker. (LWV is the League of Women Voters.)
- Second Vice President and Membership Director Ed Reed handed out a Membership packet and exercise to each Chapter President. The exercise is an effort to recruit US Postal Employees; packets include 20 F135 applications, 18 M2 prospective member forms, the new membership manual, and three packets for US Post Offices.
- The Board voted to accept the proposal to amend the National Bylaws to ensure fairness in the NARFE ballot used in voting.
- Scholarship Chair Eleanor Kaul said that FEEA/NARFE Scholarships have been reduced to \$700. There is a new Memorandum of Understanding between FEEA and NARFE due March 25.
- Alzheimer's Chair Eleanor Kaul reported that Maryland NARFE is Region II's second largest donor to NARFE Alzheimer's Research. The three top donor chapters are: 969 St. Mary's County/\$5,500; 2274 Ocean Area/\$1,577; and 1127 Rockville/\$1,500.
- Co-Chair Larry Walton gave an update on the 2019 Biennial Conference, May 5-7, 2019 in at Dunes Manor, Ocean City, Md. Dunes Manor is located at 28th Street, in the heart of Ocean City. Oceanfront rooms are available all week for \$98.35. Vendor Chair for the Conference Eleanor Kaul has sent letters to 16 vendors, inviting them to rent tables at the conference. Several vendors have

taken ads in the conference program and are sponsoring meals. Registration fee is \$50, which includes two breakfasts and two lunches. The Installation Banquet is separate at \$45. For details, contact your Chapter President who received the Call Letter to the 2019 Biennial Conference. Also, on Feb. 8, the Maryland Federation Secretary Pat Farmer sent information on the May Conference to each member of the Maryland Federation from the NARFE Email System.

- Programs Chair Edward Holland has been busy securing speakers for the May conference; among them are Barbara Sido, NARFE Executive Director; James Marshall, NARFE Federal Benefits Institute; John Wobensmith, Maryland Secretary of State; and many other speakers from State and Federal government and beyond.
- Public Relations Chair Edward Holland stated that his goal is to tell the story of NARFE and get us in the fight.
- Adjournment: 2:54 p.m.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT – Dave Walser, Membership Officer

As of 1 February we had 219 members. Two of our members passed away including Norma P. Hall and Marilynne Ocando; one member was dropped for non-renewal; three members transferred out of chapter with one of them moving to Florida; seven members were sent second notices to renew their membership; and we received applications from six prospective new members.

Don't forget when purchasing postage stamps to please buy ALZHEIMER'S FOREVER STAMPS.

TREASURER REPORT – Stew Saphier, Treasurer

The NARFE Chapter treasury totals \$2,371.78, including \$5 in the Alzheimer's fund. The \$190 that was in the Alzheimer's fund has been sent to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research fund as of December 2018..

SUNSHINE REPORT – Theresa Murray

The Chapter sent Sympathy cards to the families of members Norma P. Hall of Charles City, VA, and Marilynne Ocando of Laurel.

NEWSLETTER – Bill Stoner, Editor

All Chapter Members: If you would like to submit an article or information of interest to our members, please forward to me at my email address shown in our Contact information at the end of this newsletter. Submissions from the Board for the April 2019 newsletter are requested by 12 March 2019.

Open Positions in our Chapter

We still need Chapter Members to step up and consider filling one of the two open positions in our Chapter. Positions include the Service Officer and the Point of Contact (POC) for Active Federal Employees.

HELP WANTED!

As many of our members know, our NARFE Chapter maintains an office in the Laurel-Beltsville Senior Activity Center located next to the Laurel Regional Hospital. The address is 7120 Contee Road. Office hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from Noon to 3 p.m. We need **YOU** to help us by volunteering one or two days a month on this desk. This would help relieve the people who are currently covering a given day all month. Member Darryl Mahoney currently mans the desk on Tuesdays. 1st VP David Walser mans the desk every Wednesday except on the chapter meeting day. Our newsletter editor, Bill Stoner, mans the desk every Thursday. Duties are very light and we find it a good time to catch up on other things. If you can help, please let our President Sam Raines or Bill Stoner know via email or phone. Our email and phone numbers are shown at the end of the newsletter under contacts. **Thank you for your consideration.**

WORTH REPEATING... SCAM - ALERT!

I recently had a phone voice mail message from an individual who gave her name and a local phone number and said she was calling from BGE. She said that I hadn't paid my bill and to call her. I was suspicious, since I had paid my BGE bill for December and January as well. So, I went online and checked the phone number. It came up as a scam. A friend said she had received a similar call. Be aware, in case you get a phone call like this. Pat Farmer

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