



NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES



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Hagerstown MD

April 2019

From the Desk of the President

The deadline is fast approaching for registering for the Maryland Federation 44th Biennial Conference at the Dunes Manor Hotel & Suites, May 5-7, 2019, 2800 Baltimore Ave., Ocean City, Maryland. The purpose of the Biennial Conference is to announce the results of the One Member-One Vote voting process on the 2019-2020 Federation Officers and the proposals for Bylaws amendments and resolutions; to install the elected officers for the next two year period; to present speakers on educational topics appropriate to the organization; and to exchange views with senior Federal and Maryland State officials on the protection and enhancement of current and retired Federal employees' earned benefits. Anyone interested in attending, please let me or a Board Member know; registrations are due April 6. Hotel reservations must be made by attendees by Thursday, April 4, after which the special NARFE conference discounted rate of \$98.35 (\$89.00 + \$9.35)/per night for all week, may not be available. The costs of registration before April 4, is \$50 per person and includes two lunches (Monday and Tuesday) and two breakfasts (Monday and Tuesday). After that day the cost of late registration is \$55. The cost of registration for a single day is \$25, but you must specify which day you will attend. The cost for the Installation Banquet on Monday evening is \$45.

A few of the speakers at the conference will be David Cox, National President, American Federation of Government Employees; Barb Sido, NARFE HQ Executive Director; Faye Green, Maryland Author; Ahmed Salem, Special Agent/Assistant Director, Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS), U.S. Department of Commerce; and Gee Williams, Mayor of Berlin Maryland, and Rick Meehan, Mayor of Ocean City, MD.

Please don't forget to vote in the MD Federation election. Information regarding the timeline for 2019 "One Member One Vote" process was distributed at January's meeting.

Patricia Nix, President, NARFE Hagerstown Chapter 306

Chapter 306 Membership Meeting will be April 12, 2019 at Western Sizzlin at 12:00 PM.

Buck Browning, Executive Director, Fort Ritchie, Community Center is our Guest Speaker.

Mr. Browning grew up in West Virginia and attended Shepherd College. His career path has included working in radio, adolescent treatment programs, and the Boys & Girls Club of Washington County.

Buck currently serves as the Executive Director of the Fort Ritchie Community Center and was named The Non-Profit Leader of the year in 2018 by the Washington County Community Foundation.

He is married to the former Miss Paula Gruver and they have one daughter, Sarah, a first year teacher in Washington County.

Treasurer's Report

Feb. 23, 2019	Balance		\$ 838.43
		Credits	<u>\$ 87.00</u>
March 23, 2019	Balance		\$ 925.43

Pandi Reed, Treasurer

Secretary's Report: Minutes of NARFE Chapter 306 Membership Meeting – March 8, 2019

President Pat Nix welcomed 18 members and guests to today's meeting. Pat reminded us of: the 50/50 and free lunch drawings, the Alzheimer's collection can, the chapter Special Raffle, and canned goods donations. She reminded us to remember our waitresses. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all and Chaplain Randy Burns offered the invocation. All enjoyed lunch.

President Pat Nix introduced our guest speaker, Eric Morrow, a Registered Representative with Summit Brokerage Services, Inc. since July 2018. Prior to that, he was a Financial Consultant with M&T Securities, Inc. from January 2007-July 2018. During his presentation he answered many questions. Eric stated emphatically that he will listen to clients about their financial needs.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

OLD BUSINESS

- Chapter 306 is still in need of a NARFE/PAC Coordinator.
- \$470 has been collected for NARFE/PAC. Recognition pins were distributed.
- Don't forget to vote in the Maryland Federation election.
- BCBS Distinguished Annuitant Award Nominations forms are available. Talk with Pat Nix for details.

REPORTS

- Vice President/Legislative Chairperson Ed Reed (a) talked about Maryland tax bills; (b) distributed *New NARFE/PAC Goals for 2019-2020*; (c) highlighted Maryland Federation's 1st Biennial Conference, May 4-7, 2019, in Ocean City, MD. See additional information in this newsletter.
- Secretary Barb Ware reminded all that the February Membership Meeting minutes appeared in the March 2019 newsletter and asked for acceptance by consensus.
- Treasurer Pandi Reed (a) shared an Irish Ghost Story; (b) reported the IRS forms had been sent in and confirmation has been received; (c) mentioned \$838.43 is in checking account; (d) announced a St. Patrick Day Raffle based on the sign-up sheet; winners were fifth signer Dorothy Smith, tenth signer Lynn Brudenell, and 15th signer Mary Vera; (e) revealed the following drawing winners: Free Lunch – Margaret Hess, 50/50 – John Hess won \$20.50 (\$41 had been collected); John graciously turned his winnings back to Chapter 306.
- Membership Chairperson Dorothy Smith's report can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.
- Special Raffle Coordinator Dorothy Smith drew Dot Buhrman's winning ticket; Dorothy's full report can also be found elsewhere in this newsletter.
- Alzheimer's Co-Coordinator Charley Ware (a) announced a Dementia Care Consortium will be held on April 10, 2019; for information contact Susan Dwyer at susdwyer@alz.org; (b) shared information from an article *Changing 'the tragedy narrative': Why a growing camp is promoting a more joyful approach to Alzheimer's*; (c) talked about the movie *Leisure Seeker*: A runaway couple go on an unforgettable journey in the faithful old RV they call The Leisure Seeker.
- Service Officer Tom Brudenell (a) handed out a page *How should I report that someone has died?* (b) asked if anyone had called for free credit reports. Member John Hess shared information for retirees who may have been affected by the OPM investigation database breaches (e.g. Security clearance investigations). Go to www.opm.gov/cybersecurity for further details.
- Newsletter Editor Dot Buhrman was not with us; deadline for the April newsletter is **NOON ON MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2019!**
- Public Relations Coordinator Joyce Chestnut continues to submit monthly meeting articles to the *Herald Mail*. Look for them on the Monday before our Membership Meeting.
- Guest Speaker Coordinator Russ Wingerd's report: April 12 – Buck Browning, Executive Director, Fort Ritchie Community Center; May 10 – Kim Torsiello, Clinical Nurse, Washington County Commission on Aging – Health and Wellness programs offered at the Senior Activity Center. Talk to Russ about additional 2019 speakers.

NEW BUSINESS

- Included with today's agenda: (a) Chapter Weather Policy; (b) Maryland Tax Bills Affecting You; (c) Eric Morrow bio; (d) REAL ID and MARYLAND DRIVERS LICENSE; (e) March is NARFE/PAC Month

UPCOMING CHAPTER 306, MARYLAND FEDERATION, and NATIONAL NARFE MEETINGS

- a) Sunday-Wednesday, March 10-13, 2019 – National NARFE Legislative Training and Report to Congress (now known as LEGCon 19) will be held in Alexandria, VA.
- b) Friday, March 22, 2019 – Leadership Team meets at the Commission on Aging, 10:00 a.m.
- c) Friday, April 12, 2019 – Hagerstown Chapter 306 Membership Meeting held at Western Sizzlin' Restaurant; gathering time 11:30 a.m.; lunch at 12 noon.
- d) Friday, April 26, 2019 – Leadership Team meets at the Commission on Aging, 10:00 a.m.
- e) May 5-7, 2019 – 2019 Maryland Federation Biennial Conference at the Dunes Manor Hotel in Ocean City, MD.
- f) Totem Pole 2019 – Wednesday, July 17, 2019. **Eight tickets are still available at \$35 each!** Contact Barb Ware for your ticket(s): barbware44@myactv.net or 301-331-2605.
- g) **NEW: August Lunch Out – Friday, August 9, 2019, Valley Mall Family Diner; details in future newsletters!**

CANNED GOODS WILL BE TAKEN TO THE COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL IN HAGERSTOWN

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Ware, Secretary

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: APRIL 2019

One of the best tools for recruiting new members is our monthly Narfe magazine. That is a great way to keep up to date on what Narfe is doing for our membership. Issues of vital importance are covered in every issue. Please take time to read and consider how it affects you. These same thoughts will also be important to others. Let's keep recruiting.

Dorothy C Smith, Membership Chair.

Special Raffle: Our special annual raffle will be starting our new year (2019-2020) of drawings in September. The early bird entries are exclusively included in the newsletter and available at our meetings starting in April. The entry forms in this newsletter can be copied for any extra ones you need for friends and family and don't forget that your address labels are a quick and easy to read way to fill out that part of your entries. Entries can be turned in at our meetings or mailed to; Dorothy C. Smith , 1058 Matthew Ct. , Hagerstown, MD 21742-3156

Dorothy Smith, Raffle Chair.

FROM: Chapter-306's V.P. for Legislation -&- 2019-NARFE-PAC - Coord.

After attending another successful Legislative Training Conference (LEGcon19), complete with a successful day on Capitol Hill for NARFE, I've concluded that "Our work, as Active NARFE Members, is Not done"! It is my personal agenda to bring what I have learned back home to share this newfound knowledge and, hopefully, boost some local (Chapter-0306) Grassroots Advocacy Efforts! My initial report, here, is that I was successful in "Meeting and Greeting our new Maryland 6TH District Congressman David Trone"; we had a twenty minute discussion, with his Legislative aide taking notes, on NARFE's overall Mission to Support The Hard Earned Federal Benefits we have earned as federal and postal workers. After a "Photo-Op", I concluded our meeting with presenting Congressman Trone a booklet highlighting NARFE's plans for The 116TH Congress, complete with all the demographics showing just how many federal and postal workers and retirees are residents of Maryland. Also, I presented our Congressman with the latest, 2019 edition of "Profiles in Civil Service" that showed him how Maryland boasts one of the most dedicated and service-minded workforces in the country. It is my intent, as I learn to be one of Maryland Federation's Congressional District Leaders (CDL's) to continue a regular dialogue with Congressman Trone and his District Staff when his "Soon To Be Opened Hagerstown Office" is operational. Since LEGcon 19 covered over (8) major "LEARN, ADVOCATE and LEAD subjects", in depth, I will give a synopsis of "Advocacy Update", here. Jessica, Klement, NARFE's Staff Vice President For Advocacy, highlighted a "115TH Congress Recap with its Threats and Accomplishments"; the "Legislative Priorities for the present 116TH Congress"; Our "Hill Day Agenda" for our visits to Congressional offices; a "Shutdown Recap" of recent federal government closure; "Grassroots Advocacy" and "NARFE-PAC". Ms. Klement noted, that "After 8 years of (NARFE) constantly defending our earned benefits, federal retirees haven't lost anything"! Some other Legislative Priorities include "Postal Reform" with a goal to modify leading Postal Reform bills to protect current retirees; a federal pay raise in 2020 with an "Enactment of 3.1 percent (or more) average pay raise"; "WEP Reform" (Windfall Elimination Provision) to Support efforts to provide relief for current retirees. She noted with "Grassroots Advocacy" Constituent Concerns Influence Legislators; there is "Power in Numbers" and Grassroots Advocacy positions NARFE as "The Go-To Resource on fed's issues". We should, in our Grassroots Efforts, Keep it Simple, Make It Personal and Ask for Action. She concluded with "NARFE-PAC"; it "Helps Strong Supporters", "Builds Relationships" and has "Political Relevancy" through raising NARFE-PAC dollars, disbursing over \$1.1 million for political purposes, attending local Congressional Fund Raisers and finally, a Goal to "Increase The NARFE-PAC Sustainer Program by 50%! The entire (28 slide) "Advocacy Update" slide presentation is available on NARFE.org under "LEGcon19 Presentations, for you to download and get "All The Details" for "All of LEGcon19's Presentations. A weekly Advocacy Message is emailed to NARFE members, posted on the NARFE.org website and Available to NARFE members via Telephone by calling 1-800-456-8410 and selecting option 4. If you have any Advocacy Questions, please email advocacy@narfe.org or Call 1-800-456-8410 and select option 3.

V/R-Edward D. Reed, Chapter-0306 Vice President for Legislation -&- NARFE-PAC Coordinator.

Members and guests of NARFE's Hagerstown Chapter 306 will travel to the Totem Pole Playhouse on Wednesday, July 17, 2019, to attend the 2:00 p.m. performance of **SOUVENIR.** Twenty tickets have been reserved; the 20 seats are together in three rows. The Group ticket rate is \$35. Checks should be made payable to Barbara Ware. She will gladly receive them at a Chapter 306 meeting or you can send them to her at 84 North Edgewood Drive, Hagerstown, MD 21740. Don't hesitate to contact Barb at 301-331-2605 if you have questions. A 25% deposit must be sent to Totem Pole by April 17 with the balance due by June 17. Further details concerning lunch and carpooling will be announced later. We are hoping to make reservations for lunch at Penn National again this year.

For more than half a century the name Florence Foster Jenkins has been guaranteed to produce explosions of derisive laughter. Not unreasonably so, as this ealthy society eccentric suffered under the delusion that she was a great coloratura soprano when was in fct incapable of producing two consecutive notes in tune. Nevertheless, her annual recitals in the ballroom of the Ritz carlton hotel, where she resided, brought her extradordinary fame. As news of her terrible singing spread, so did her celebrity. Her growing mob of fans packed her recitals, stuffing handkerchiefs in their mouths to stifle their laughter—which Mrs. Jenkins blissfully mistook for cheers. The climax of her career was a single concert at Carnegie Hall in 1944. Famously, it sold out in two hours. **SOUVENIR**, by turn hilarious and poignant, tells her story through the eyes of her accompanist, Cosme McMoon. A talented musician, he regards her at first as little more than an easy way to pay the rent, but as he gets to know her, his initial contempt gives way to reluctant admiration, then friendship and affection. A musical old-couple for the ages.

Our next Business Meeting will be Friday, April 26, 2019, 10:00 am at the Senior Activities Center & Offices of The Washington County Commission On Aging, 535 East Franklin St. Hagerstown MD. We plan to have Lunch following our meeting, *location to be determined*. You are welcome to join us for the meeting as well as lunch, Dutch treat.

PAID AD SECTION

We encourage you to check out our sponsors!



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