



NARFE BUZZ

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association
Western Montgomery County Chapter 258 - Chartered November 10, 1953
The largest NARFE Chapter in the country!

September 2019

Our Next Chapter Meeting – And Upcoming Events

Our Friday, September 13th Chapter meeting will be at the Mykonos Grill, 121 Congressional Lane, Rockville, MD; members who wish to come for lunch may arrive at 11:30 a.m., with the meal being served at 12:00 noon. The cost is \$25.00 per person, payable either in cash, or checks made out to "Mykonos Grill" (please, no credit cards). Those who do not wish to come for lunch may arrive at 1:00 p.m. **The speaker will be Dr. Roland F. Hirsch, who will speak on climate change.**

Chapter Executive Board meeting Monday, September 9th, Ledo's Pizza, 10300 Westlake Drive, Bethesda, MD, 10:00 a.m.

The September chapter meeting will be on Friday, September 13th, at the Mykonos Grill, 121 Congressional Lane, Rockville, MD.

NARFE MD Federation Board Meeting, Friday, September 27th, Comfort Inn, Bowie, MD. Please contact Dick Strombotne if you would like to attend. Chapter 258 will pay the \$20 registration fee for attendees.

Chapter Executive Board meeting Monday, October 7th, Ledo's Pizza, 10300 Westlake Drive, Bethesda, MD, 10:00 a.m.

The October chapter meeting will be on Friday, October 11th, at the Mykonos Grill, 121 Congressional Lane, Rockville, MD. Our speaker will be Ms. Mary Rucker, Program Manager of the NIH Stroke Center.

NARFE MD Federation Training Day, Friday, October 31st, Comfort Inn, Bowie, MD. There is no registration fee.

Chapter Executive Board meeting Monday, November 4th, Ledo's Pizza, 10300 Westlake Drive, Bethesda, MD, 10:00 a.m.

The November chapter meeting will be on Friday, November 8th, at the Mykonos Grill, 121 Congressional Lane, Rockville, MD. Among our speakers will be Ms. Jennifer Malavé, Account Manager, Carefirst Blue Cross Blue Shield, and an AETNA representative, who will present information on the annual FEHBP health care "Open Season."

Cong. Jamie Raskin will again have the usual two FEHBP Forums in November. The daytime forum will be on Tuesday, November 12th, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Holiday Park Senior Center, 3950 Ferrara Drive, Wheaton, MD 20906, and the evening forum will be on Thursday, November 21st at the Executive Office Building, 101 Monroe St., Rockville, MD 20850, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

PLEASE !! If you have a "winter" address, have a change of your local address or your E-mail address, or haven't provided us with your E-mail address – please advise the NARFE Headquarters Member Records at 1-800-456-8410. Thanks !

PRESIDENTS' CORNER

Lois Ann Beaver, Co-President

Maryland Federation President Dr. Gary Roundtree, Sr. hosted the 2019 NARFE Federation Presidents Meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona, July 7-10. Included in his report to NARFE National President Ken Thomas on meeting outcomes were priority issues that would be addressed individually in future correspondence. Among the issues cited was establishment of a Federation President's advisory committee, in-depth training for Chapter and Federal Service Officers, improve communications, send a bill instead of a membership renewal form and various tactics focused on attracting younger members. Barbara (Barb) Sido, Executive Director of NARFE responded to Dr. Roundtree's report concerning follow-up activities. Incidentally, we look forward to meeting with Barb Sido at the Chapter 258 meeting on March 13, 2020.

The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019 raises defense and domestic spending by about \$100 billion and extends the debt ceiling through July 31, 2021. Fortunately, it doesn't take funds from federal employee retirement accounts, and avoids automatic spending cuts through sequestration. However, 12 appropriation bills (or a continuing resolution) must be passed by Oct. 1 to avoid federal agency shutdowns.

The speaker for the September 13 Membership Meeting will be Dr. Roland F. Hirsch, who was a faculty member and associate dean at Seton Hall University, worked at NIH for three years and at the Department of Energy for 28 years where he managed research in the Office of Biological and Environmental Research, involving climate research, genomic research and biogeochemistry. Dr. Hirsch's work gave him the opportunity to learn about the broad range of scientific work in the climate area. The presentation from this award winning, highly respected scientist will give us a special insight into **Climate Change.**

Our annual Maryland State Legislators' Forum took place at the previous Membership Meeting on May 10, when guest speakers included Senator Susan Lee (District 16), Senator Benjamin Kramer (District 19) and Delegate Kirill Reznik (District 39), who presented the outcome of the 2019 Maryland Legislative Session. Accomplishments included a \$46.7 billion balanced budget without raising taxes or fees, a Rainy Day Fund with over \$1.1 billion, \$118.2 million of unspent revenues and additional state

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resources over \$119 million for the support of critical projects in Montgomery County. Improvements to the education system, anti-violence actions, updating Maryland's Human Trafficking law, fighting elder fraud, cybersecurity, restoration of the health of Chesapeake Bay, and a gradual increase in the minimum wage and other achievements were cited. Local bond funding was obtained to support renovations for Cornerstone Montgomery, Josiah Henson Park, YMCA Bethesda-Chevy Chase and CASA de Maryland.

For members making a permanent move, please provide your new address to NARFE, either at 606 N. Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314, call Member Records at (1-800-456-8410), or login to the NARFE website (www.narfe.org). On the left side of the page under What You Can Do Online click on Update My Record to access this section; you will need a password.

Chapter 258 will pay the \$20 registration fee for members who attend the MD Federation Board Meeting on September 27th, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Bowie Comfort Inn. If you would like to attend, or may have any questions, please contact Dick Strombotne no later than September 19th. Dick's phone number is 240-632-9881; his E-mail is DickS.narfe@comcast.net

NARFE MARYLAND FEDERATION'S 44TH BIENNIAL STATE CONFERENCE

Larry Lange, Treasurer

The Maryland Federation's 44th Biennial State Conference was held in Ocean City, Maryland, at the Dunes Manor Hotel and Suites from May 5th through the 7th. Past Chapter President Charlie Garfinkel and I attended. The Host Chapter was Ocean Area Chapter 2274; Larry Walton is President of Chapter 2274 and was Conference Co-Chairman. Dr. Gary Roundtree, Sr., Conference Chairman, described this meeting as a "one-of-a-kind leadership and training" opportunity. Speakers for the first day's program included Mr. Rick Meehan, Mayor of Ocean City, and Mr. Gee Williams, Mayor of Berlin, MD, both of whom welcomed the attendees. The keynote address was delivered by Mr. Peter Franchot, Comptroller of Maryland, who was followed on the podium by Ms. Barbara Sido, NARFE's Executive Director (She is scheduled to speak at our March 13, 2020 Chapter 258 membership meeting).

Among the many other speakers were the Maryland Secretary of State, Mr. John Wobensmith; Speaker Wayne Hartman, Maryland House of Delegates; Mr. James Marshall, Head of NARFE's Federal Benefits Institute; Mr. Ronald Rolfe, Deputy Assistant Director, Nuclear and Missile Technology Division, U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security; and Ms. Cara Rose, Senior Special Agent, Human Trafficking, Homeland Security Investigations.

The afternoon of Monday, May 6th offered attendees four different workshops (from which they could choose two). One of these workshops that I attended was on Elder Law, given by Leslie Case DiPietro, Esq., of Procino-Wells and Woodland Law Offices; I found Ms. DiPietro's presentation to be very interesting and informative.

The Dunes Manor Hotel and Suites is located at 28th Street in Ocean City, a short distance from the boardwalk. All rooms for the Conference attendees, which faced the ocean, had been recently updated. The hotel's meeting, workshop rooms, and the dining rooms were excellent.

An enormous amount of work, over several months by every member of the Conference Planning Board made for an interesting, informative, and thoroughly enjoyable experience.

NARFE'S NEW AMS (ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM)

Larry Lange, Treasurer

Read Carefully. Recent issues of the *narfe* monthly magazine have advised members that National NARFE has a new logo, and is also working on "rebranding" NARFE. As part of that work there is a new AMS (Association Management System) that is redoing the NARFE homepage, its online reports for Chapter officers, and more. You will no longer be able to sign onto the NARFE homepage as you have in the past. To access the NARFE homepage (if you previously have had a NARFE account), go to www.narfe.org; at the Sign In screen you will be offered (a few lines down in the left column) several ways to sign on. I chose to utilize my complete E-mail address, and a new password I created. You will then be taken to a page with a horizontal row of buttons; to the right of the red Home button is a blue button for the NARFE home page. Clicking on that blue button will take you to the NARFE homepage, which offers a wealth of information for members, including webinars, "Latest News from NARFE," and many other options. Do some "exploring" to access the large amount of helpful information available to you.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Larry Lange, Treasurer

Chapter 258, Funds Summary, July 26, 2019

Checking Account balance, 5/2/19	\$ 12,816.91
Receipts, 5/2/19 - 7/26/19	\$ 918.70
Expenses, 5/2/19 - 7/26/19	\$ 455.97
Checking Account balance, 7/26/19	\$ 13,279.64
Working Capital/Total Chapter assets	\$ 13,279.64

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All photos are by Dr. Judy Mazza



Senators Susan King and Ben Kramer, who participated in our May 10th MD State Legislators' Forum



Incoming Chapter Co-president Lois Beaver, and outgoing Chapter President Charlie Garfinkel



(L to R) Chapter 258 Officers: 1st V.P. Allan Kam; Secretary Marty Strombotne; Co-president Dick Strombotne; and Delegate Kirill Reznik, who also participated in our May 10th MD State Legislators' Forum



At our May 10th Chapter Meeting, outgoing President Charlie Garfinkel was presented the Care First Blue Cross Blue Shield Distinguished Annuitant Award by Care First Blue Cross Blue Shield representative Jennifer Malavé

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National Active and Retired Federal Employees
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**THIS IS YOUR CHAPTER 258 NEWSLETTER
PLEASE READ !! 😊**

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be Dr. Roland F. Hirsch, who will speak on climate change.**

Chapter Officers

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VACANT

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Representative Jamie Raskin (MD-8)
202-225-5341

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Gov. Hogan's e-mail is governor.mail@maryland.gov. Your legislators may be reached at www.mgaleg.maryland.gov; they may also be reached using the General Assembly's number. 1(800) 492-7122

United Seniors of Maryland

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