

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

October 2019

## Our Next Chapter Meeting – And Upcoming Events

**Our Friday, October 11th 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. Mary Rucker, Certified Neuroscience Registered Nurse, Stroke Program Manager, NIH Stroke Center at Suburban Hospital, who will tell us how to spot the symptoms of a stroke.**

**Chapter Executive Board meeting Tuesday, October 8th (note change of this date to Tuesday),** 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. Please contact Dick Strombotne if you would like to attend; no fee will be charged our Chapter

**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 Ms. Susan Allgood, AETNA representative, who will present information on the annual FEHBP health care "Open Season."

**FEHBP "Open Season"** this year will run from Monday, November 11th through Monday, December 9th, 2019.

**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.

**Friday, December 13th, is our Chapter 258 Holiday Party.** It will be at Alfio's La Trattoria Restaurant, from 12:00 noon to 2:30 p.m., 4515 Willard Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD (there is free valet parking; Alfio's is also two blocks from the Friendship Heights Metro Station). Entertainment will be provided by Clarke Maylone's Band. Reservations are necessary; the reservation coupon, listing the choice of entrees, and other details of the Party, will be in the November/December 2019 BUZZ.

**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*

**Climate Change** was the topic addressed by Dr. Roland F. Hirsch at our previous Membership Meeting on September 13. With a long background in managing research at the DOE, and previous work at NIH and as a Chemistry Professor and Dean at Seton Hall University, Dr. Hirsch demonstrated a clear perspective on "What we know—and don't know—about climate." He provided numerous references and concluded that there is limited understanding of the science underlying climate, that research is needed to improve climate models and that the positive effects of climate change need to be understood, not just potential negative impacts.

**The speaker for the October 11 Membership Meeting will be Dr. Mary Rucker, MS RN, SCRN, (Stroke-certified Registered Nurse) CNRN, (Certified Neuroscience Registered Nurse),** Stroke Program Manager of the NIH Stroke Center at Suburban Hospital. She will tell us how to spot symptoms of a stroke by thinking "F.A.S.T."

**At Its September 9th Meeting, Our Chapter's Board** suggested that, at the Chapter membership meeting on the 13th, **and at subsequent Chapter membership meetings,** we would provide blank index cards and pens to members at those meetings, asking them to write down Maryland state issues they would like addressed by their representatives. At the September 13th meeting we received responses on cards from five attendees – thank you very much! Your Chapter's Board will discuss these responses at its October 8th meeting and consider these responses for future NARFE advocacy.

**Plans for our Chapter's Holiday Party are being made.** The date is Friday, December the 13th; the party will be held at Alfio's La Trattoria, 4515 Willard Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD 20185, from 12:00 noon to 2:30 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by the Clarke Maylone Band. Alfio's has free valet parking; it is also two blocks from the Friendship Heights Metro and bus stations. As we did last year, in the November/December BUZZ there will be a coupon for members to make their entrée selection, to be returned, with payment, to our Chapter Treasurer Larry Lange. Please note that reservations must be made via this coupon. More details will be provided in our November/December BUZZ.

(Continues pg. 2)

The Fall 2019 Newsletter from the NARFE Maryland Federation was distributed by President Dr. Gary Roundtree, Sr.

The President's Message included reference to the Federation President's/National Executive Board Meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona, July 7th - 10th. He noted that the Maryland "Profiles in Civil Service" book was well received by all 54 Federation Presidents and the Board.

The file of the Maryland Federation of NARFE's Fall 2019 Newsletter is available for you to read. Please go to [www.mdnarfe.org](http://www.mdnarfe.org) to read the newsletter. Once you get to the homepage, at the top click on The MD Federation; under that click on Federation Newsletters and then on the 2019 Fall MD Federation Newsletter.

The actual link is:  
[www.mdnarfe.org/fall-2019-newsletter\\_narfemd\\_final\\_paf/](http://www.mdnarfe.org/fall-2019-newsletter_narfemd_final_paf/)

President Gary hopes you will take the opportunity to read and enjoy this newsletter and photos.

The Fall MD Federation 2019 Newsletter included the following 2019 Calendar of Events:

- Sept. 26: Executive Committee Meeting, 3-6 p.m.,  
Bowie Comfort Inn
- Sept. 27: Federation Board Meeting, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.,  
Bowie Comfort Inn
- Oct. 29: Budget Call Letter to be Sent Out
- Oct. 31: Training Day, Bowie Comfort Inn
- Nov. 23: Prepare Preliminary Budget; to be published in  
Winter Newsletter
- Nov. 24: Deadline for Winter Newsletter Articles

Articles for the Winter Federation Newsletter should be submitted to the NARFE/Maryland Newsletter Editor, Pat Farmer, ([buttonspaf@aol.com](mailto:buttonspaf@aol.com)) with a copy to President Gary Roundtree ([groundtree@hotmail.com](mailto:groundtree@hotmail.com)) before Sunday, November 24. Questions may be addressed to Dr. Gary by email or by phone 410-227-8570 h/443-929-7045c or to Pat by email or phone, 301-776-4645.

**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](http://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.

### **NARFE'S NEW WEEKLY NARFE NEWSLINE**

*Larry Lange, Treasurer*

As part of the choices on NARFE's Internet homepage for members to individually support NARFE's advocacy for its protection of the earned benefits of current and retired federal employees, NARFE has initiated its NARFE Newsline weekly E-mail to members. On the NARFE home webpage, sign on as a member; at the top toolbar, hold your cursor on "Departments"; drop down the menu click on "Advocacy." This page will offer you many choices: there is a tab for the NARFE Newsline Update, plus the large tab for the "NARFE Legislative Action Center." Opening this large tab will offer you many more choices. After going into the NARFE Legislative Action Center link, at the bottom of this page there is a "Find Politicians" – filling in your Zip Code and address will give you a list of federal and state politicians pertinent to you – you'll even be given the choice to send one or more of these politicians an E-mail from you.

There are many links in the "Advocacy" part of NARFE's Internet homepage – please explore all of these links – you will be amazed at the information NARFE has made available to you via these links.

The NARFE National Office is continuing working on loading its AMS (Association Management System) online chapter records, and is hoping to finish this task in the very near future

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

*Larry Lange, Treasurer*

#### **Chapter 258, Funds Summary, September 9, 2019**

Checking Account balance, 7/29/19	\$ 13,279.64
Receipts, 7/29/19 - 9/9/19	\$ 989.12
Expenses, 7/29/19 - 9/9/19	\$ 114.89
Checking Account balance, 9/9/19	\$ 14,153.87
Working Capital/Total Chapter assets	\$ 14,153.87

The next meeting of the Board of NARFE's Maryland Federation (all the NARFE Chapters in Maryland) will be in early February of 2020. If you have never attended a Maryland Federation Board meeting, please think about doing so. Our Chapter will pay the \$20.00 reservation fee, which includes a very nice served lunch. These meetings are held at the Bowie Comfort Inn motel, and generally run from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Our Chapter 258 members that attend MD Federation Board meetings always form carpools.

(Continues pg. 3)

**Pictures taken by former Chapter 258 president  
Charlie Garfinkel**



(L to R) Chapter 258 officers Larry Lange, Treasurer, Lois Beaver, Co-president, and Constance Price, 2nd VP, are sworn in by former National NARFE Secretary and Chapter 258 member Gordon Brown. Co-president Dick Strombotne, Secretary Marty Strombotne, and 1st VP Allan Kam were not able to attend our September 13th meeting, and will be sworn in at a later date.



The speaker at our September 13th Chapter meeting, Dr. Roland Hirsch, is presented a copy of the book, Cabin John, written by Chapter 258 member Judy Welles, by Co-president Lois Beaver.



Gordon Brown, Chapter 258 member and former National NARFE Secretary, always leads us in singing The National Anthem at the beginning of each Chapter 258 membership meeting.

**MARYLAND INCOME TAX – ITEMIZED DEDUCTIONS**

*Dick Strombotne, DickS.narfe@comcast.net*

A new report from the Maryland Comptroller's office says that about half of the Maryland taxpayers who claimed itemized deductions in previous years did not claim them this last year. As a result, revenues in FY 2019 from individual taxpayers increased to \$10,272 million in FY 2019, up by 8.0% from the previous year.

Are you one of the MD taxpayers who had to claim a standard deduction instead of itemized deductions on your 2019 tax return? If so you will be happy to learn that the Maryland Federation and its State Legislation Committee are working to keep this issue in front of the Hogan Administration and General Assembly leadership. You should also be taking every opportunity to bring this matter to the attention of state officials; they are the only ones who can fix it by changing the law in the 2020 session of the General Assembly. Attend any fundraisers or town hall meetings that you can. If they don't know there is a problem they will not take action to fix it.

You can download a copy of the Maryland Federation's 2020 Legislative Program by going to this link:  
<http://bit.ly2020SLCPAMPHLET>

Western Montgomery County Chapter 258  
National Active and Retired Federal Employees  
310 High Gables Drive, Apt. 205  
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

NON-PROFIT  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
SUBURBAN, MD  
PERMIT #5715

**THIS IS YOUR CHAPTER 258 NEWSLETTER  
PLEASE READ !! ☺**

**The speaker for our October 11th Chapter meeting will be  
Dr. Mary Rucker, who will discuss the symptoms  
of a stroke.**

### Chapter Officers

#### Co-Presidents

**Dr. Richard Strombotne** 240-632-9881  
DickS.narfe@comcast.net

**Lois Beaver** 240-447-2054

#### 1st Vice President

**Allan Kam** 301-469-0352  
akam@htsassociates.com

#### 2nd Vice President

**Constance Price** 301-657-2625

#### Secretary

**Marty Strombotne** 240-632-9881  
martystrom@comcast.net

#### Treasurer

**Larry Lange** 301-972-6775  
llange3751@aol.com

#### Service Officer

**Helen Berkson** 301-881-1168

### Committee Chairs

#### Public Relations

**Suzanne Ackerman** 301-588-6206  
suzword@gmail.com

#### Newsletter

**Larry Lange** 301-972-6775  
llange3751@aol.com

#### Federal Legislation

VACANT

#### State Legislation

**Dave Roseman** 240-401-6628  
dave.roseman@comcast.net

#### Programs

**Lois Beaver** 240-447-2054

#### Allan Kam

301-469-0352  
akam@htsassociates.com

#### Awards

VACANT

### Membership VACANT

#### Alzheimer's

**George Perez**  
George.E.Perez@gmail.com

### Congressional Delegation

Senator Chris Van Hollen, Jr.  
202-2245-4654

Senator Benjamin L. Cardin  
202-224-4524

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

Representative David Trone (MD-6)  
202-225-2721

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

### United Seniors of Maryland

**Dave Roseman** 240-401-6628  
dave.roseman@comcast.net