



B-CC BUZZ

Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chapter 258 - Chartered November 10, 1953
National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

September - November 2014

September 12: Congressman Chris Van Hollen

We welcome Congressman Chris Van Hollen, who represents the 8th District of Maryland, as our invited speaker for our chapter meeting. He has been a tireless advocate for Maryland in Congress, and his leadership has helped to obtain funding for a wide range of critical investments for the local community, including infrastructure, biotechnology, and education; public transportation in the Washington National Capital area; and anti-gang initiatives. In addition, throughout his career, he has been a champion of education, veterans, energy, the environment, health care, civil rights, and small business.



Congressman Van Hollen also holds House leadership roles. In 2012, re-elected by his colleagues, he is serving a second term as the top Democrat on the House Budget Committee. In this position, Congressman Van Hollen is one of the key point persons on budget and economic legislation in the House.

Before his election to the U.S. House of Representatives, Congressman Van Hollen served four years in the Maryland House of Delegates and eight years in the Maryland Senate. Prior to being an elected official, he was an attorney in private practice.

Congressman Van Hollen is a graduate of Swarthmore College, the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, and Georgetown University Law Center. He lives in Kensington, Maryland with wife, Katherine, and their three children, Anna, Nicholas, and Alexander.

(Adapted from Congressman's website www.vanhollen.house.gov where additional information can be found.)

President's Corner

Our September 12 meeting will be an important one, and I urge you to attend.

First, Congressman Chris Van Hollen has accepted my invitation to speak, so his talk will be the main program. Second, following the Congressman's talk, we will move to the business portion of the meeting, which will include a vote on consolidation of our chapter with the Gaithersburg Chapter.

For those members who were not in attendance at the June meeting, let me provide the background on consolidation. At our Chapter's last meeting I reported that the President of the Gaithersburg NARFE chapter, Joe Martin, had initiated a dialogue about possibly merging our chapters into one Western Montgomery County Chapter. The main rationale for consolidation is that each of the chapters is having trouble getting sufficient volunteers to fill its officer and committee chairs. Indeed, several of our own officers and committee chairs have indicated to me that they are approaching burnout, and would want to step down in the near future. Meanwhile, our chapter has had long-standing vacancies for the positions of Service Officer and Membership Chair. So, despite repeated requests for volunteers, only a few members in each chapter have been willing to step up and assume leadership positions. If the chapters were to combine, it is more likely that we will have a critical mass of activists willing to fill the officer and committee chair positions of the consolidated chapter.

Our chapter's Executive Board, at its meetings on April 8 and again on June 10, expressed favorable interest in pursuing the proposal. We discussed the proposed consolidation of chapters with the State Federation President, Dan McGrath, in person at the State Federation mini-convention in May, and he has been supportive. Then, in early June the Gaithersburg chapter sent a special newsletter that notified its members and asked them to vote on whether to pursue consolidation.

I reported on all of the above at our chapter's June 13 meeting, and invited questions or comments (none was offered). I also stated at our June meeting that members could e-mail or telephone me with their input or questions (I have received none). At the June 13 meeting meeting, I reported that we would vote on consolidation at our September 12 meeting if the Gaithersburg chapter voted to pursue consolidation. If both chapters voted to proceed, then the Board members of both would meet to work out implementation details such as meeting locations, dues, and other logistics issues.

As Joe Martin aptly noted in asking his chapter to vote on consolidation, the benefits of consolidation include (1) allowing a larger membership base for recruitment of officers and committee chairs; (2) providing for efficiencies in preparation time for meetings and key tasks (e.g., newsletter preparation); and (3) allowing a larger pool of revenue and resources to assist the chapter in addressing issues important to its members.

Since our last meeting on June 13, I have been advised that the Gaithersburg chapter has voted overwhelmingly (97%) in favor of consolidation. Therefore, at our chapter's September 12 meeting, you, too, will have a chance to vote on consolidation. We hope that by drawing on a much larger membership base, we will be able to staff the new (consolidated) chapter properly and become more effective.

Allan Kam

NARFE National Treasurer Richard Thissen and State Federation President Dan McGrath have accepted our invitation to attend our September 12 chapter meeting, this will be an opportunity to meet them in person.

November 14: Federal Employees Health Insurance Update

Since November is the month that federal employees consider their options in health insurance, we have once again invited Ms. Jennifer Malave to be our speaker. Ms. Malave's presentation will cover changes to Federal Employee Policy (FEP) - Standard Option and Basic Option-in regard to CareFirst Blue Cross/Blue Shield plan. Also, any changes to the CareFirst HMO products offered to federal employees can be discussed. When announcing the changes for this Open Season, Jennifer will explain which changes are OPM driven, which changes are Plan driven and which changes are as the result of the Affordable Care Act. Any benefit changes that affect enrollees of Medicare Part A and Part B will also be open for discussion. Ms. Malave will also

announce any changes to the FEP Blue Dental and FEP Blue Vision Plans. The presentation will be very comprehensive and a question and answer session will follow. Please join us for this very informative session.

Ms. Malave has worked at CareFirst Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) for 25 years. Jennifer Malave started with BCBS as a customer service representative where she learned the benefits "like the back of my hand" and "when companies still taught old school customer service" skills such as "the customer always comes first." Jennifer has valued this motto and she has carried it into her other positions at CareFirst. Ultimately, Ms Malave accepted the position as Marketing Representative for CareFirst BCBS, a position she has held for 15 years. This department recently changed its name as well as her title. Ms Malave's team recently took over the management of the local Plan HMO, Blue Choice, that is offered to federal employees and so the department is now called "FEHBP Account Management and OPM Relations." To explain her new title is too long, but in short, she is still an Account Manager. Ms Malave's contacts include over 60 federal agencies, all of USDA, the Department of Labor and the Supreme Court, just to name a few, as well as four NARFE chapters. She especially enjoys working with NARFE members because she finds them to be one of the most well informed and friendliest groups. When not working, Ms. Malave continues to be involved in antiquing and refurbishing used furniture. She lives with her family in Alexandria, VA.

SAVE THE DATE!

CONGRESSMAN CHRIS VAN HOLLEN'S 2014 FEHB FORUMS

Congressman Chris Van Hollen will hold his 12th annual FEHB forums in cooperation with NARFE on Monday morning, November 17th in Wheaton and Wednesday evening, November 19th in Rockville.

This is the chance for you to talk with representatives from health insurance companies about their FEHB plans and learn from experts from OPM, NARFE, and Consumer Checkbook. Get all your questions answered!

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| Monday, November 17, 2014 | Wednesday, November 19, 2014 |
| 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. | 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. |
| (Panel: 9:30-10:30 a.m.) | (Panel 7:30-8:30 p.m.) |
| Holiday Park Senior Center | Executive Office Building |
| 3950 Ferrara Drive | 101 Monroe Street |
| Wheaton, MD 20906 | Rockville, MD 20850 |

SAVE THE DATES!

Sept. 9 Tuesday Exec Board Mtg 10:00 a.m.,
Ledo's Restaurant, 10300 Westlake Dr.,
Bethesda (Near Montgomery Mall)

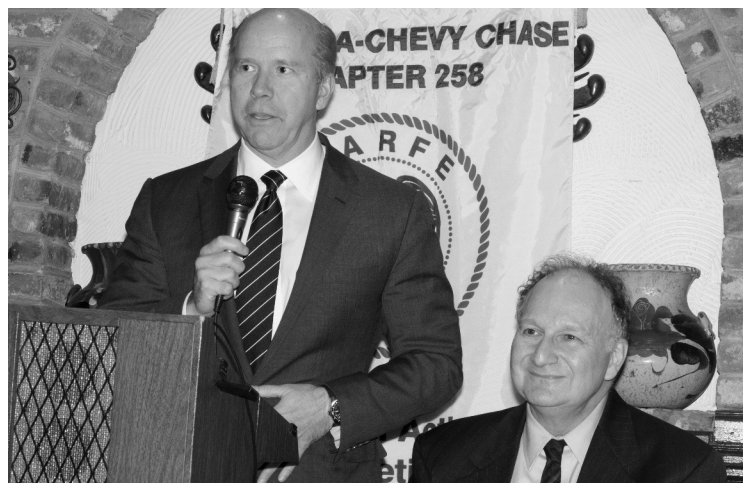
Sept. 12 Friday Chapter meeting/C. Van Hollen
12:00 p.m., Alfio's La Trattoria

Nov. 11 Tuesday *Veteran's Day No Board Meeting*

Nov. 14 Friday Chapter meeting/Health Insurance
12:00 p.m., Alfio's La Trattoria

Friday Chapter meetings social time at 11:30 a.m., lunch at noon (fixed menu \$21.00; pay at restaurant) followed by speaker. Alfio's La Trattoria, 4515 Willard Ave (Willoughby Building) between Wisconsin Ave. and River Rd., in Friendship Heights. Free valet parking. Restaurant is walking distance to the Friendship Heights Metro and bus services.

All are welcome to attend Chapter 258 Executive Board meetings on Tuesdays at 10 a.m.



Feb 7, 2014: Speaker, Congressman, John Delaney and Allan J. Kam.



Our Sympathy



We mourn the loss and the passing of the following Chapter members, reported in January 2014 through August 2014, and extend deepest sympathies to their families and friends: Ronald T Allen, Lewis H Bunker, Edith P Dodge, William J Duddleson, Jeanine D Flaherty, Ralph G Golden, Aaron Greenburg, Charles L Kent, Mary Juhn Kim, Emanuel Landau, Patrick J McDonough, Vivia T Motsinger, Li Paul, Charlotte H Resnick, Lewis B Sims and Ruth R Stout.



April 11, 2014: Speaker, Jessica Klement, NARFE Legislative Director (Ctr), Allan J. Kam (L) and Gordon Brown (R).

Chapter Membership

Welcome to new members who joined or transferred in during February through August 2014: John R Glowa, Marianne Swanson and Diane Maisel. We hope to see you at our chapter meetings. Please tell other federal employees and retirees about NARFE membership.

Chapter 258 members who have email addresses may opt out of receiving the BUZZ paper version and post card meeting announcements (and thus save us the cost of postage) by contacting Jo Ann Chin (jochin@verizon.net).

Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chapter 258
National Active and Retired Federal Employees
7207 Rollingwood Dr.
Chevy Chase, MD 20815-3130

Address Service Requested

Congressman Chris Van Hollen, September 12
Health Insurance updates, November 14

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Chapter Officers

President
Allan Kam 301 469 0352
akam@htsassociates.com

1st Vice President
Gordon Brown 240 328 6926
papabrown26@verizon.net

2nd Vice President,
Maxine Lesniak 301 951 3405
mlarden@mac.com

Secretary
Henry Gwiazda 301 718 8306
HJGwiazda@yahoo.com

Assistant Secretary
Jo Ann Chin 301 530 5781
jochin@verizon.net

Treasurer
Wesley Chin 301 530 5781
uumce987@gmail.com

Assistant Treasurer
Constance Price 301 657 2625

Service Officer
OPEN

Committee Chairs

Public Relations
Suzanne Ackerman 301 588 6206
suzword@gmail.com

Newsletter
Maxine Lesniak 301 951 3405
mlarden@mac.com

Judy Welles 301 229 8110
judywelles@verizon.net

Legislation
David Richman 301 770 3608
dmr0313@aol.com

Programs
Allan Kam 301 469 0352

Awards
Gordon Brown 240 328 6926

United Seniors of Maryland
Gordon Brown 240 328 6926
papabrown26@comcast.net

Membership
OPEN

Alzheimer's
George Perez 301 951 6159
george.e.perez@gmail.com

Congressional Delegation

Senator Barbara A. Mikulski
202 224 4654

Senator Benjamin L. Cardin
202 224 4524

Representative Chris Van Hollen, Jr.
202 225 5341

Representative John Delaney
202 225 2721