



MARYLAND FEDERATION NEWSLETTER WINTER 2012



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Ted Jensen

The big news since our last issue revolves around leadership changes after the National Convention. Congratulations to our new Region II Vice President, Evelyn Kirby. She will do us proud at The Big Table in Alexandria. We owe Ron Bowers, our outgoing RVP, a debt of gratitude for everything he has done for NARFE, and is still doing. He has now accepted the challenging task of reviewing the National Bylaws again, with a small elite team also including the Maryland Federation Parliamentarian John Stackpole and Past Virginia Federation President Bill Shackleford. We did adopt revised Bylaws in Reno, but there were many unresolved issues and concerns that could not be addressed during the Convention. Thanks also to Barry Grier, who really shook up the race for RVP and ran a spirited campaign. Barry continues to be the face of the Maryland Federation at many events around the State, getting the NARFE name out and signing up the new members we need. I think NARFE came out just fine and is well positioned to keep moving forward.

We needed a new Federation First Vice President to take over Evelyn's job. Several good candidates answered the call, which we really appreciate. I am very pleased to announce that the Board approved the

interim appointment of Dan McGrath from Ocean Area Chapter 2274. Dan's experience will enable him to contribute immediately and we look forward to working with him as a member of the Executive Committee. In addition to his lead role in legislation, I have asked Dan to take on the special assignment of helping some of our chapters that are facing problems. He has graciously agreed and is already engaged.

We must also say goodbye and good luck to another major contributor, Tom Longo. Tom has been a leader in recruiting and retention for his chapter, and has done an outstanding job as Federation Photographer. Tom is moving to some other lucky NARFE group in Indiana in January. Somewhere in one of our chapters is a photographer who is ready to come to three Board meetings a year plus a yearly training session and an every-other year convention and preserve us for posterity. I hope to hear from that person before our February 5 Board meeting.

Speaking of our annual training session, we had a productive training day on October 26. About 50 current and prospective leaders, including nine from the D.C. Federation, participated in four workshops. Topics included how to use

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Federation Directory

Executive Committee

President

Ted Jensen
301-667-3165

tjensen.NARFE@gmail.com

1st Vice President

Legislative Director

Dan McGrath
410-641-5570

mcgrathsop@aol.com

2nd Vice President

Membership Director

Barry Grier
410-586-0929

forbarryg@aol.com

Secretary

Jeanette Green
301-645-3319

jeangreen@aol.com

Treasurer

Past President 2005-2009

Dick Strombotne
240-632-9881

DickS.NARFE@comcast.net

Region II Vice President

Evelyn Kirby
410-604-1141

ekirby@atlanticbb.net

(Delaware, District of Columbia,
Maryland, New Jersey
& Pennsylvania)

NARFE National Headquarters

606 N. Washington Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-1914
703-838-7760

www.NARFE.org

Contacts

NARFE Net/Webmaster & Alzheimer's/Lupus Coordinator

Barbara Jacobs
410-969-5980

gb1519@verizon.net

Chapter Development Coordinator

Bernie Goldsborough
301-737-1315

Federal Employees Education & Assistance Fund Coordinator

Barbara Walter
301-598-8882

redslittle@verizon.net

Federal Legislative Committee

Chair &

NARFE-PAC Coordinator

Jim Cowie, 301-515-3005

jamescowie@att.net

MD-PAC Treasurer & Budget Officer

Dave Roseman
301-424-5652

dave.roseman@comcast.net

Public Relations Chair

Dorothy Campbell
301-464-6372, Dcbowie@aol.com

Resolutions Chair

Saj Durrani
301-774-4607

sajdurrani@aol.com

Service Officer

Harold Forst
410-661-4625

hforst@aol.com

State Legislative Committee Chair

Ed Bice
301-464-3748

de3637@verizon.net

United Seniors of Maryland Rep.

Chuck Thomas
410-992-7984

cgthomas1@verizon.net

Chapters & Presidents

126	Western Charles/Indian Head	Ed Rice
251	Annapolis	Meg Clarke
258	Bethesda/Chevy Chase	Gordon Brown
264	Hyattsville	Thomas LoJacono
306	Hagerstown	Ed Wurmb
357	Takoma Park	Vacant
409	Frederick	Mary Lou Blessing
410	West-Mar	Donnie Gibson
422	Laurel	Bill Anderson
581	Gaithersburg, Co-President.....	John Padan
581	Gaithersburg, Co-President	Larry Lange
969	St. Mary's County	Bob Schultz
1122	Northern P.G. County	Richard Bennof
1127	Rockville	Jennifer Ramsey
1143	Leisure World	Barbara Walter
1260	Southern P.G. County	Cel Aguigui
1261	Delmarva	Eleanor Kaul
1363	Bay Area	JoAnne Groves
1372	Tidewater	Louise Woods
1466	Calvert County	Shelly Zimon
1519	Glen Burnie	Stan Jacobs
1522	Susquehanna	Harold Forst
1734	Howard County	Burdelle Dowdell
1747	Greater Bowie/Crofton	Dorothy Campbell
1770	Bel Air	Wayne Whiting
1887	Wheaton/Glenmont	Jim Priestley
1888	White Oak	Marcia Swanson
1892	Aspen Hill	Saj Durrani
1936	N.W. Baltimore Metro	Barbara Cuffie
1972	Waldorf/La Plata	Richard Campbell
1990	Catonsville	Lou Brocato
2166	Eastern Baltimore Area	John Carduner
2262	Upper Marlboro	Bob Jacobs
2274	Ocean Area	Arlene Page
2306	Carroll County	Gary Buchman

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310 High Gables Dr., Apt. 205

Gaithersburg, MD 20872-7424

Editor: Linda Adams

301-253-4740 grams38@verizon.net

Distribution: Dick Strombotne

240-632-9881 DickS.NARFE@comcast.net

the On-Line Activities Module to support retention efforts, the nuts and bolts of public relations, best practices for newsletter editors, and chapter level recruiting. Many thanks to Barry Grier, Dorothy Campbell, Dick Strombotne, Linda Adams and Pat Dempsey for organizing these workshops, as well as to all the others who contributed their talents. As a direct result of these workshops, Federation Editor Linda Adams is developing a guide for newsletter editors, including a web-based resource center for editors and prospective editors. It is out for review and comment by chapter presidents and editors.


On the recruiting front, the Federation designed and purchased space for billboards in seven locations in the Baltimore area. The billboards targeted current employees and were placed as close as possible to Federal offices. The billboards were up for four weeks at a net cost of \$2500 to the Federation after we received \$2500 in matching funds from our National office. We are working on a system to assess the effectiveness of these ads, which were a first for our Federation. We continue to hear that current employees have not heard about NARFE and that we are not doing enough to reach out to minority employees. This ad campaign was one more step to address those issues.

Another critical path to current employees is the eNARFE concept. The number of members in the National eNARFE chapter continues to grow steadily. The Federation Presidents had a very good discussion about this at the National Convention. We talked about Federation access to eNARFE members, voting issues, and the pros and cons of individual federations establishing eNARFE chapters. The NEB listened to our concerns and has responded in a very positive way, as you have seen in reports from Evelyn and Dick. I think the NEB strategy is sound and see no reason for Maryland to have its own eNARFE chapter. It appears that we will be able to communicate with eNARFE members who live in Maryland without the overhead that would be needed to run a state-wide echapter. Our challenge will be to use that opportunity wisely and not abuse it. We already had an agreement to share the Federation newsletter with these members. Sharing information about our State

legislative program with them has been one of one of main concerns, so that is probably the next logical addition. We also need to add more current information to our Federation website as another resource for them and for all our members and prospects. I urge chapter presidents and committee chairs to submit information directly to our Webmaster, Barbara Jacobs, gb1519@verizon.net. The Executive Committee can't keep up with everything that might be of interest.

We continue to be an active, engaged Federation, but only because of the dedicated efforts of our leaders throughout the State. At our convention in Ocean City next April we will be electing a new leadership team. Please give some serious consideration to being a member of that team. Jim Cowie has more on this in his article. The Convention plans are well underway under the leadership of Jackie Roberson and Doug Newton and their able committee. ●●

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PLEASE DONATE TO THE MARYLAND/PAC  
TO CONTINUE THE EXCELLENT WORK  
DONE TO SUPPORT NARFE'S MISSIONS  
AND GOALS.  
  
COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW AND SEND  
YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO DAVE ROSE-  
MAN, MD/PAC TREASURER.

**MARYLAND/PAC DONATION (MD/PAC)**  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Chapter No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Make check payable to MD/PAC (Note on  
check "Chapter #")  
  
Mail to: Dave Roseman, MD/PAC Treasurer  
6 Thorburn Road  
Gaithersburg, MD 20878



Jim Cowie

*Jim Cowie, Chair  
Federal Legislative Committee*

### FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE UPDATES

The election is now behind us. The controls in the White House, Senate and House have not changed from the last Congress, and we still need to wait anxiously to see what agreements are reached, especially in the areas of the discretionary half of the Budget and Entitlements. It is very unlikely that our interests will escape unscathed, but the political environment could have been substantially less favorable for us than it ended up being. There will be a lot of pressure for changes to Entitlements to make them more sustainable over time, and to avoid them consuming an ever increasing percentage of the GDP. AARP, backed by its 50 million members, has declared that it will campaign to avoid any changes in this area, so it would make sense for NARFE to concentrate its efforts on defending the discretionary half of the budget, which will determine the size and scope of Federal resources in the future. We must strive to minimize the arbitrary slashing of this budget, which would be the case if the sequestration was implemented.

At the Federation and District levels, guidelines were issued recently about what should be expected of Federation Legislative Committee (FLC) members for each District, in establishing good relationships with the District Representatives, Senators and their staffs in Washington and in local offices. It will take a little while for the staff posts to be filled, after which the FLC members should strive to establish good interface relations so that information flows will be welcome in both directions. The FLC members are also expected to form good relations with the relevant officers in each of the chapters in their district, so that confidence is built up that their contributions are considered to be helpful. We always welcome feedback if the district arrangements are cooperative and working well, or if there are areas where im-

provements would be welcome.

The only change in the slate of elected officers in Maryland was the election of John Delaney in MD6, who had a convincing victory over the long-time incumbent Roscoe Bartlett. Delaney is a highly successful self-made businessman who made a very favorable impression throughout his campaign, with well expressed views and constructive answers to a wide range of questions. He wishes to contribute most in the area of commerce in a competitive global environment, with a particular interest in improving the job prospects in his constituency, which is composed of segments with major differences in their economic conditions. We believe that we have established a relationship with him and his staff where our concerns will be treated with respect and there will be good information flows in both directions. He describes himself as being an independent thinker who will draw on the lessons of his experience to decide what courses of action should be followed, especially in the areas where he has special expertise.

● ●



Ed Bice

*Ed Bice, Chair  
State Legislative Committee*

### STATE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE (SLC) REPORT

#### Reaching Out

During the Fall the SLC took actions to broaden the search for issues for consideration by the Committee in the 2013 legislative session. At the October Board meeting the SLC Issues Survey Form was distributed and attendees were asked to complete and return them to me after the meeting. Also in October an email with a copy of the survey was sent to all chapter presidents, with the request that they distribute the survey at their next meeting for completion. Members were instructed to email or call me

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with their legislative priorities. I have received some results from these efforts but would like more. If you have any ideas for consideration, please contact me.

In November the SLC emailed a letter to all legislators along with a copy of the 2012 legislative brochure. The letter stated that in many areas our goals coincide not only with other public service employees but also with the general public. Examples were given where our aims benefit Maryland residents of all ages and occupations. We expressed a willingness to proactively support legislative initiatives which legislators are considering that might fit in with our legislative agenda before the next session begins. We particularly are interested in issues affecting senior citizens/others that they plan to support and/or sponsor or cosponsor.

### Bills

The SLC is having companion bills introduced in the 2013 General Assembly session for the purchase and retention of Long-Term Care [LTC]. The bills would replace the current one-time \$500 tax credit on policies purchased in 2014 and beyond with an annual \$200 tax credit. The chief Senate sponsor is Senator Kathy Klausmeier [D-District 8]. The chief House sponsor is Delegate Jim Hubbard [D-District 23]. You are asked to contact your State Legislators and ask them to support these bills.

### Incentive

The SLC again is offering to pay for parking at the Navy/Marine Corps Stadium [\$5] to any NARFE member who attends a hearing in Annapolis when our supported bills are heard. In addition, any chapter that has three or more of the chapter members attending a bill hearing at the same time will receive \$35.

### Meeting with Miller's Chief of Staff

In October Dick Strombotne, Bill Ferguson and Ed Bice met with Vicki Gruber, Senate President Mike Miller's Chief of Staff. The purpose of the meeting was to exchange information about NARFE and SLC legislative activities. The hour-long discussion was devoted to our efforts to equalize the senior tax exemption and provide an annual tax credit instead of the present one-time credit for the purchase of LTC

insurance. Additionally, we discussed the 2008 North Carolina study which details in thirteen major areas the positive and vital economic impact of its retirees on the State's economy. We believe that the same benefits that North Carolina realizes are true in Maryland. All of the appropriate documents dealing with our meeting were provided to Ms Gruber. ●●



Dave Roseman

*Dave Roseman*  
*MD-PAC Treasurer*

### **MD-PAC**

Now that the National elections are over and the Maryland ballot questions resolved, we again can turn our focus to State legislative issues. This year the Maryland State budget is very close to balanced. This does not consider needs in transportation, possible effects of sequestration or growth or new program proposals. We feel fairly confident that an increase in the gas tax will be proposed and that the Governor probably will have a few new projects he wants to introduce.

The State Legislative Committee is in the process of reviewing and revising our legislative program pamphlet and will be distributing it in the near future. As part of this effort we have asked for input from all of our legislative points of contact and Maryland chapters. We hope you have responded.

Our State legislators also are getting ready for the coming session scheduled to start in January. Some are hosting fundraising events to fill their coffers for the 2014 elections. This gives attendees to these events the opportunity to show the legislators our support and inform them of our priorities and desires for the coming legislation session.

Recent recipients of our support include Senators Joanne Benson and Kathy Klausmeier, and Delegates Melony Griffith, Tony McConkey, Charles Barkley, Guy Guzzone, Kirill Reznik, John Wood, Susan McCo-

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mas, Eric Luedtke, Ben Kramer and Norman Conway. All of the above either support our goals, serve in positions that can have a great deal of impact on our proposals or have sponsored or cosponsored our bills.

Your contributions to MD-PAC allow us to make these presentations and we truly appreciate your support. We would like all of you who make contributions to let us know what your top priorities are for the year's legislative session. You can do this by

emailing Dave at [dave.roseman@comcast.net](mailto:dave.roseman@comcast.net) or email your thoughts and checks to: **MD-PAC, 6 Thorburn Road, Gaithersburg MD 20878**. A copy of our form to complete is located on page 3.

We look forward to your continued efforts to improve the Maryland environment for Federal employees and annuitants and for seniors. ●●



*Chuck Thomas*  
*USM Federation Representative*

## **UNITED SENIORS OF MARYLAND**

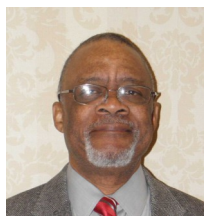
Chuck Thomas

It's time to reset your calendars. The USM Legislative Forum has been changed from January 29 to March 19, 2013. Nothing else has changed. The Forum will be held at Francis Scott Key Auditorium, St. Johns College, Annapolis, MD. You can renew your membership and/or register on line at :

<http://www.unitedseniors.net/>.

As some of you may already know, the regularly scheduled meeting for December 17, 2012 was cancelled. Meetings are now scheduled for January 4, February 11, April 15, May 20, and June 17, 2012. The December 17 meeting was cancelled as being too soon after the Board retreat, which was scheduled for December 11, 2012. The new USM President, Elizabeth Weglein, scheduled the retreat to work on a long-term strategic plan. At the time this report was prepared, information on the proceedings of the retreat were not available. Further information will be provided in the next report. ●●

## **MEMBERSHIP**



*Barry Grier*  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President*  
*Membership Director*

Barry Grier

### **WORKING EXHIBIT BOOTHS: A GREAT RECRUITING OPPORTUNITY**

For a few years now I have been working NARFE exhibit booths throughout the federal community here in the Maryland/DC area and find them to be a great source for recruitment and, more importantly, an excellent way to get the word out about NARFE. This time of year is the busiest since we're in the middle of the Health Benefit fairs being held

throughout the federal agencies. The folks at the NARFE headquarters recruitment department are eager to assist in making sure you have plenty of materials i.e. magazines, brochures and convention gadgets to keep your table an interesting stop for fair goers. And, they're fun to work.

Working these booths is not for the timid of heart. Introverts need not apply. It calls for those types of out-going folks full of energy who don't take "no" for an answer. Your booth is competing with lots of others to get attention so you can't be sitting there like you'd rather be someplace else. It's an art. It truly is.

First of all, you have several types of personalities you'll be dealing with. There is the "I'M TOO BUSY

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TO LINGER” type. This type you have to almost push a magazine in their hands and let them know “you need to read this. We’re on your side!”

Then there is the “I DON’T WANT ANYTHING” type except whatever gadget or keychain you may have on the table. For this type you should say “help yourself, but check out the health benefits in the NARFE magazine!!” November and December issues generally have loads of information regarding the hundreds of benefit packages offered by the health insurance companies that also are competing for their business.

The one I like most of all is the “I DIDN’T SEE YOU” type. This person walks briskly past your booth without giving you a thought. For this one I yell out “Hey, you’re just going to walk past this booth and not take advantage of the latest in federal benefit packages?” They generally look a little sheepish at you. Almost apologetically they then give you their full attention. That’s when you hit them with “By the way, heard about NARFE?”

Then there is the “WHAT IS NARFE?” type. I love this one. It’s like shooting fish in a barrel. This is the main reason you’re there. This is your sure-enough recruiting opportunity. I generally say: “What? You haven’t heard of NARFE?” – “Have I got news for you. Glad you asked.....” For this one you make sure they have one each of your brochures such as “The Top Ten Mistakes”, “Pop Quiz” , “What has NARFE done for you lately”, and NARFE’s “legislative achievements” etc ., etc.

Oh yeah, then there is the “BUT I HAVE YEARS BEFORE I RETIRE YET” type. This is generally a younger federal employee who is still inquisitive enough to stop at your booth. That is when you let this one know NARFE is also for active employees as well by saying: “The way they’re beating up on federal employees you should look into joining us. We’re on your side. Check us out on [www.NARFE.org](http://www.NARFE.org).”, and give them a magazine. You may be surprised how that magazine you give out will get around to others as well.

You have to understand that the word “retirement” sends chills through some folks even though they may be retirement age; so many may be

in denial. I have seen them almost run from our booth because they see “retired” in our title. It’s okay. They just need a little encouragement to check out what you have to offer. Generally, they end up striking up a conversation and all is well. As they leave, I tell them “Remember, retirement means every day is Saturday.” Always thank them for stopping by your booth.

PREPARATION: Preparing to work a booth is very important. First of all, make sure you have enough materials. Prepare for a little more than needed. Make sure you order your supplies a month in advance if possible or at least several weeks in advance.

Remember, the NARFE recruiting department is getting orders from all across the country, and everyone naturally thinks their order is more important. So give the NARFE employees a break and order in advance. Dress comfortably. You’re going to be there all day and it can get a bit tiring. I might suggest wearing some of the NARFE apparel. A NARFE hat or T - shirt works well.

Above all, make sure your booth looks presentable and not like a grenade went off on top of it! Set up your materials neatly and your “giveaways” in a basket on the table but not in the middle of your magazines and brochures. Keep the “giveaways” to one side so that you can start up a conversation while they are perusing your basket of gadgets. Candy also works well for those baskets.

The whole idea of “giveaways” is to slow them down just long enough to hear what you have to say. Remember they’re moving fast since most are just on their morning or afternoon break. So whatever you have to say, say it fast and with a friendly smile and personality. Your attitude and personality are your greatest assets and can make or break your recruiting opportunity.

Speaking of recruiting, if you have the time, it might be worth your while to jot down your NARFE ID number on the recruitment applications you hand out. As part of your preparation you might consider doing this prior to setting up your booth should you have your materials well in advance. You may have a pleasant surprise seeing your name in the NARFE Re-

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cruiter's Journal sent in months later by one of the attendees.

Last but not least. Several chapter members working a particular booth look much better than just one person working. Sometimes there may be hundreds walking by which makes it tough for one person to work the booth and explain what we're all about. Your need for assistance at your booth should depend on the number expected to attend the event. My rule of thumb is: Over 200 should have two working the booth.

There you have it. Working these booths can be a lot of fun and a great opportunity to recruit NARFE members. Many federal employees never hear of NARFE except through these types of opportunities. Take advantage of it. Good luck!! ●●

~~~~~



Dick Strombotne
Membership Retention Committee
Chair

Dick Strombotne

Dues Withholding

Maryland NARFE has had monthly mailings to selected groups of members since February 2011; its Dues Withholding Incentive Program (DWIP). Initially, the letters went only to first-time retiree members and offered a rebate of \$5 to those who applied for the rebate. After October 2011, the rebate offer was increased to \$10. At that time, the mailings were expanded to include a second group of members; those members who joined between April 2007 and April 2010. As of this writing (November 28, 2012) rebates have been sent to 100 requesters. Moreover, 107 of the members who received the mailings have signed up for dues withholding as a convenient, money-saving way to pay their NARFE dues. The success rate for the DWIP mailings is roughly five percent overall.

For the first ten months of 2012, members on dues withholding have **increased** by 2/3 of one percent. By contrast, nationally the number of members on dues withholding **has declined** by 2.2 per-

cent. The Maryland Federation is one of the very few federations that have increased the number of members on dues withholding since January 1, 2012, just as in 2011.

Of the first-time members who have received the rebate offers, it appears that those who took the two-year membership offered through the OPM blind mailing to recent retirees are signing up for dues withholding at twice the rate as those with one-year memberships.

After the December 2012 mailing to older members who joined between April 2007 and April 2010, the subsequent mailings to older members will be directed to those who joined after the July 2004 dues increase and before April 2007.

Reinstatements

Also in February 2011, Maryland NARFE started mailing letters to members who had not renewed their membership (dropped members). These letters are invitations to reactivate their membership in NARFE. They are sent to members about nine months after their membership has expired. Thus far 170 members have rejoined after 2647 letters were sent; the success rate is 6.4% which compares favorably to the success rate for the OPM blind mailings.

eNARFE members

As of the end of October 2012, the national eNARFE chapter had 6005 members, three times the number of members at the end of 2011. Some 576 of these members live in Maryland. See also the discussion of the eNARFE chapter in the report on November meeting of the National Executive Board. ●●

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*Jim Cowie*  
*Nominating Committee Chair*

Jim Cowie

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The members of the 2011 Federation Nominating Committee have all declared their willingness to serve again, and have been reappointed for 2013. They are

*(continued on page 9)*



Louise Woods (1372), Pat Farmer (422), Mel Hardy (1888), Joe Self (2306) and Jim Cowie (581) .

The filling of posts this time will be much more of a challenge, since only Dick Strombotne (Treasurer) from the existing set of officers is willing to stand again. Hence the roles of President, 1<sup>st</sup> VP, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP and Secretary need to be filled by newcomers.

We would encourage anyone who might be interested to talk to any committee member about a possible role, without any firm commitment in the initial discussions. We would also ask members to recommend nominees who they believe to show promise of being a suitable candidate for one or more posts, preferably if they believe that the suggested person might give this serious consideration.

We will ask the incumbents to document what they consider to be the most significant duties of their office, and what they think to be most important to carrying out the duties successfully. We also may ask the Treasurer and Secretary to define what they think would be most productive if a Deputy was assigned to back them up in their area of responsibility.

Candidates who are considering running for office will not be announced until they have made a firm commitment to run, and promising candidates may be approached by respected leaders to see if they might be willing to come forward.

The Bylaws indicate that the candidates for 1<sup>st</sup> VP and 2<sup>nd</sup> VP should be assessed on their potential to assist the President, and to become a suitable choice for the post of President at a later stage. However, the Committee considers that it has been the practice for some years that the President will assign the VPs to lead the Legislative and Membership activities for two or often four years. Hence the Committee will expect the candidates for the VP position to present themselves, not only as suitable as a General Manager, but also for leading one or either of these important functions.

More details on the process will be issued as we get nearer the date of the Convention, but it is not too early for members to give serious consideration to their own interest in being considered for a senior position, or to recommend likely candidates who might be persuaded to run. ●●

## FINANCIAL



*Dick Strombotne*  
*Treasurer*

Dick Strombotne

### TREASURER'S REPORT

The accompanying chart shows the revenues and expenditures for Maryland NARFE for 2012 through November 30. Revenues total about \$73,700 with ten-percent funds contributing \$54,300 and Chapter Per Capita fees contributing \$7,570. Significant revenues also came from the Mini-convention (\$5,200), matching funds (\$3,230), and other income (\$2,300) which mainly are the registration charges paid at Board meetings.

Expenditures total almost \$71,900. Three budget categories exceeded \$10,000: Mini-convention

(\$13,276), Membership/recruitment (\$11,410), and National Convention (\$10,396). Other budget categories with significant expenditures were: Federation Board Meetings (\$9,452), Training (\$6,699), State Legislation (\$4,928), and Executive Committee (\$4,403). All other budget categories had expenditures less than \$4,000 each.

As a result, through the end of November, Maryland NARFE has a surplus of \$1,826. Looking ahead to the end of the year, it is expected that the surplus will increase. Expected revenues from Per Capita Fees are \$887.50 and ten-percent fund revenues are projected at \$5,174. In contrast, the two major expenditures are about \$600 for the newsletter and \$350 for State Legislation. Consequently, the surplus for the year is expected to exceed \$6,500 as opposed to the projected budget deficit of \$500.

*(continued on page 10)*

**MARYLAND FEDERATION OF CHAPTER  
FINANCIAL REPORT for CY2012  
As of November 30, 2012**

| <b>INCOME</b>                       | <b><u>TOTAL TO</u><br/><u>11/30/2012</u></b> |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| National Membership Dues            | \$ 54,316.51                                 |
| Chapter Per Capita Dues             | \$ 7,569.00                                  |
| Interest – B of A Savings           | \$ 119.63                                    |
| Interest – B of A CDs               | \$ 513.39                                    |
| Income - State Convention           | \$ 475.00                                    |
| Income – Mini-Convention            | \$ 5,200.00                                  |
| Matching Funds                      | \$ 3,230.00                                  |
| Other Income                        | \$ 2,300.00                                  |
| <b>TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE</b>        | \$ 73,723.53                                 |
| <b>EXPENDITURES</b>                 |                                              |
| Ad Hoc Committees                   | \$ 316.27                                    |
| Administration, Gen.                | \$ 3,444.96                                  |
| Alzheimer's/Lupus                   | \$ 32.59                                     |
| Chapter Assistance                  | \$ 3,450.00                                  |
| Convention, Mini                    | \$ 13,276.38                                 |
| Convention, Maryland State          | \$ 1,904.56                                  |
| Convention, NARFE National          | \$ 10,396.10                                 |
| Executive Committee                 | \$ 4,402.74                                  |
| Federation Board Meetings           | \$ 9,451.74                                  |
| Legislation, Federal                | \$ 560.85                                    |
| Legislation, State                  | \$ 4,928.81                                  |
| Membership/Recruitment              | \$ 11,409.59                                 |
| Newsletter                          | \$ 1,263.31                                  |
| Retiree Asst. Ctrs                  | \$ 44.55                                     |
| Service Officer                     | \$ 28.35                                     |
| Training                            | \$ 6,698.89                                  |
| Web Site                            | \$ 287.96                                    |
| <b>TOTAL FUNDS DISBURSED</b>        | \$ 71,897.25                                 |
| <b>FUNDS SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>      | \$ 1,826.28                                  |
| <b>BEGINNING BALANCE - 1/1/2011</b> | \$ 77,797.86                                 |
| <b>ENDING BALANCE (Net Worth)</b>   | \$ 79,624.14                                 |



Dave Roseman

●●  
*Dave Roseman*  
*Budget Officer*

**BUDGET 2013-2014**

The Budget Call is currently out and being completed by our officers and chairpersons. The Budget Committee is set to meet in mid-December and shortly after that the proposed Budgets for 2013 and 2014 will be emailed to all Board members. The Board will vote on the budgets at the next Federation Board Meeting on February 5, 2013. ●●



*Happy Holidays to all of our  
Maryland Federation  
members.*

## REPORTS, NEWS, EVENTS AND INFORMATION



*Evelyn Kirby*  
*Region II Vice President*

### **NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD REFLECTIONS**

Evelyn Kirby

Immediately after my first time attending a full meeting of the National Executive Board (November 12-15) at NARFE Headquarters I sent my view of the highlights of the session to all five Region II Federation Presidents. Ted, like the other Presidents, shared my notes, and I thank him for that. I value timely communication and want to be as inclusive as appropriate in dealing with news and ideas of substance. Those quick notes were an 'advance' on what I would have said in this article, so I won't repeat that information here. I'll just reinforce that my first impression of the NEB was a positive one. This was fed by the candor, hard work, general respect and focused spirit of the 14-member body.

As expected, the National President votes only in a tie situation, of which we had none. The voting outcomes were the results of analyzing the issues and facts at hand. Yes, we had differing opinions and varying styles as we probed pros and cons. All present clearly had the long-term health and success of NARFE as priorities and a willingness to make some tough calls re change and realities.

I'll just add one more bit of news to my earlier highlights. When we considered various membership incentives we overlooked the \$8 reward for anyone who recruits an Active Federal Employee. The oversight was discovered and the NEB polled electronically, with the reward being extended via unanimous approval. ●●



*Dick Strombotne*  
*Representative*

### **REPORT ON NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

Dick Strombotne

NARFE's National Executive Board (NEB) met in Alexandria on November 13-15, 2012. This was the first meeting of the new NEB and there were three new members: Evelyn Kirby (Region II), Art Pike (Region I) and Frank Impinna (Region VII).

On Tuesday morning, I arrived in the middle of Treasurer Dick Thissen's budget report. The budget for 2013 projects a surplus of a few hundred thousand dollars with revenues and expenditures in the \$11 million range. The budget document is very detailed.

The meeting on Wednesday included a briefing on membership recruitment and retention status and plans by National Secretary Elaine Hughes and Membership Marketing Director Bridget Boel, a lengthy discussion of eNARFE chapter structure and organization, Maggie Carter's report on the redesigned NARFE magazine (which will launch with the January 2013 issue and arrive in members' homes in mid-December), and a report from Ron Bowers.

Regarding membership recruitment and retention, there are several projects underway to augment the semi-annual OPM blind mailings and the routine renewal activities. They include direct mail with rented mailing lists, online ads, telemarketing, and an emphasis on getting new prospects with the M-2 cards.

The number of members in eNARFE now totals over 6,000. This chapter has just about tripled its membership since the end of 2011. The NEB decided that federations will have access to the eNARFE members living in their states as soon as the technical arrangements can be made. Looking forward to the day when the eNARFE chapter has many more members,

*(continued on page 12)*

the NEB also decided in principle that the ballot votes of the eNARFE chapter will be exercised by federation presidents according to the number of eNARFE members residing in the state. (This will require an amendment of the Bylaws to implement.) The clear intent of the NEB is to make it so easy for federations to contact the eNARFE members living in their states that there will be no need to go through all the time, trouble, effort, and expense to have an eNARFE chapter that is a part of the federation, a state level eNARFE chapter. In essence, eNARFE will be a national chapter that federations can access. It seems likely that federations will be able (eventually) to have blogging and web page capability through eNARFE.

Ron Bowers began his report to the NEB by pointing out the many tags he had put on a copy of the new DC statute governing non-profit corporations that had sections affecting NARFE's policy, practices, and operations. Bill Shackelford (Region X), John Stackpole (Maryland Federation Parliamentarian), and a lawyer in the DC federation are the three other people on his ad-hoc committee. He described the process of going through the Bylaws and statute, one topic at a time, and preparing drafts intended for the NEB to review and comment. His goal is to complete all the work by the time of the July 2013 meeting of the NEB.

Comments and observations. The new NEB is off to a good start. It addressed important issues with probing questions and suggestions for improvements. There was time to consider matters fully. NARFE is making good progress in membership activities and putting a high priority on stopping the decline. NARFE is becoming more technologically astute. The members of NARFE are being well served by professional, capable staff in key areas, including specifically legislation, membership, IT, and the magazine. However, the NEB needs to inform all members, but especially chapter and federation officers, about the work being done, changes being made, and the reasons for those changes in a timely way. ●●



*Saj Durrani*  
*Resolutions Committee Chair*

Saj Durrani

## CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS

The Federation's next Convention will start on **April 29, 2013**, and the agenda will include resolutions on issues relating to the Federation. The Resolutions Committee would welcome any proposals that could improve the Federation's operations and enhance the services it provides to its members. Issues that require a National Bylaws change are considered during Mini-conventions in even-numbered years. So if you submit a Resolution on such issues, action on it will be postponed till 2014.

All proposed Resolutions must be received by the Federation Secretary (FedSec) no later than 60 days before April 29, i.e., by **Feb 28, 2013**. ***Each Maryland Federation Resolution should be prepared on the form provided by the Federation Secretary, on request. Each National Resolution should be prepared on Form F-3A or F-3C*** (see details below). ***On both forms*** the Chapter's President and Secretary should certify that it has been approved by their members. The ***completed forms should be sent to the FedSec*** by regular mail, or it can be scanned and saved as a Word or RTF file and sent as an email Attachment.

Most Chapters hold monthly meetings, but if your Chapter meets every two months, then you may have only one meeting before the deadline of February 28 - which means **you'll need to work fast!**

The National forms and instructions can be downloaded from the Officer Resources link at the Headquarters Website. **Form F-3C is for Bylaws and Standing Rules**, while **Form F-3A is for issues NOT related to those topics**. Each Form is restricted to a single page, and the Section headings are self-explanatory: state the purpose in the "Subject" line; reasons for action in the "Whereas" section; proposed action in the "Resolved" section; and an estimate of the cost due to the action, if any, in the "Estimated Cost" section.

The Resolutions Committee will review the pro-

*(continued on page 13)*



posals, seek any clarifications that may be needed from the Chapters initiating the proposals, and recommend Adopt, Non-Adopt, or Adopt as Amended. The FedSec will distribute the material to all members of the Board at least 35 days before April 29, i.e., by **March 25**. This will allow the initiating Chapters enough time to prepare their case if the Committee does not recommend Adoption of their Resolution; it will also enable other Board Members to seek any clarifications they need before deciding which way to vote at the Convention. If a Board Member objects to consideration of a Resolution or wishes to amend it, he or she can submit a statement to that effect to the FedSec at least 15 days before April 29, i.e., by **April 14**.

Resolutions also can be introduced at the Convention as Motions by a Committee Chair, or as New Business without prior submission, so long as they don't affect the Bylaws; however, the Convention may decide not to consider them. So if you are serious about an issue, it is best to follow the procedure outlined above and observe the deadlines.

Please feel free to contact me at: [sajdurni@aol.com](mailto:sajdurni@aol.com) if you have any questions. I look forward to hearing from you. ●●  
~~~~~

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE (ECC)

Linda Adams, ECC Co-Chair

The ECC is meeting this next week to once again procede with our charge to recommend innovations and improvements in the Federation electronic communications process within the Federation.

We have reviewed the surveys completed by the Maryland Federation chapters and hope to expand this survey to other Federations to see what their successes and stumbling blocks are in their processes. We have been working to collate a web masters list and other contact lists to complete this part of our project and reach out to other parts of the country. Looking at their websites has been very informative and we hope to find out why and how some of them did what they did, if it worked, and what resources they needed to accomplish the tasks.

I chaired one of the communications sessions at the Training Day in October. I received other very thoughtful suggestions in that session. It spilled over from the original topic of a newsletter editors guide and website to more general communications genre. Those creative ideas will be presented to the ECC at our coming meeting.

Other ideas have resulted from the May Training on Social Media and hopefully these ideas will also be included in the recommendations. New ideas in electronic communications seem to be a very difficult challenge to change people's way of doing things, so we hope to include training resources for the recommendations as well.

If you have further comments you would like to forward to the ECC, please give me a call at 301-253-4740 or email me at grams38@verizon.net. We are looking for all input we can receive; it will be appreciated. We hope to have a more concrete document this coming spring. Thank you for your time in completing the surveys; we may be back with further questions, but we have quite a bit to sift through right now.

We also acquired a new member this fall. Howard Gordon from Chapter 1747. He will be in addition to: Maxine Howard, Jim Lish, Chris Spain and myself. All contribute from different perspectives, so it has been interesting to be a part of this group. ●●
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**COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN PLEA**

*Emily Cummings*  
*Director, Chesapeake Bay Area Combined Federal Campaign*  
[www.cbacfc.org](http://www.cbacfc.org)

It's wonderful to know that our gifts will help others this holiday season. But, it's important to remember that issues such as hunger, disease, homelessness, and natural disasters don't occur just once a year. Cancer knows no season. Lines at soup kitchens don't end. Floods, fire, and earthquakes can happen at any time.

*(continued on page 14)*



Through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), federal employees are able to unite and make a difference for thousands of charities that have been vetted by fellow federal employees to participate in the campaign. Three reasons why charities support giving through the CFC:

1. Charities are able to budget for the entire year knowing what has been pledged to them throughout the year from the generous federal employees.
2. CFC is cost-effective to the charities: less marketing expenses to reach 90,000 Federal employees in the region when CFC is marketing on their behalf.
3. Charities who receive pledges through the CFC also receive a proportionate amount of the undesignated funds.

To those who have donated this year or in past years, THANK YOU.

Please take a few minutes and visit the CFC website, [www.cbacfc.org](http://www.cbacfc.org), search for the charities that you care most about and consider making a pledge either through the CFC Nexus button to pledge via credit card or use the pledge form online to send in a check or cash. The 2012 campaign will be wrapping up shortly, so don't delay. Together we are making a difference. ●●

## MARYLAND SENIOR CITIZENS HALL OF FAME, INC. (MSCHF)

*Jeanette Green, Secretary*

At an Awards Luncheon in October two Maryland NARFE Federation members were inducted into the 2012 MSCHF because of their active volunteerism. Criteria include any or all of the following:

- Voluntary service of educational or community humanitarian nature
- Exceptional contributions as a volunteer in efforts to improve the lives of people regardless of race, creed or national origin
- Advocated as a volunteer on behalf of Maryland

senior citizens

- Demonstrated leadership as a volunteer with skills in management, creativity and program service administration

***Congratulations to Larry Lange, Chapter 581 Gaithersburg, and Edith Keeney, Chapter 2306 Carroll County. ●●***

## FUND RAISING EVENTS

*Ed Bice, MD-PAC Chair*

MD-PAC gains information about legislators' events primarily though information send to members of MD-PAC. There may be times when fund-raising committees forward information about events to chapter presidents or members. We request that if notices are received, they be sent for action to Ed Bice, Chair, MD-PAC, [de3637@verizon.net](mailto:de3637@verizon.net) or Dave Roseman, Treasurer MD-PAC, [dave.roseman@comcast.net](mailto:dave.roseman@comcast.net). Requests for support are received from April through December. ●●



Jeanette Green

*Jeanette Green  
Secretary*

## Chapter Secretaries/Presidents

**Report Givers** - When making a report at a Federation Board meeting **please** give me a copy of your comments for backup. A hard copy helps ensure accuracy of the transcription.

**Chapter Secretaries** - A current F-7 is needed **all the time**, and especially by 31 December whether or not changes have occurred, by me and by Headquarters. You can send the new electronic form, or if this is not accessible a typed copy either through email or the postal service **must** contain the following: chapter name, number, location, meeting dates, dues. First and last names, phone number, email and mailing addresses for each officer and chairman position. ●●

# AROUND THE FEDERATION...

## NATIONAL CONVENTION

THE FOLLOWING THREE PICTURES ARE PROMOTION BOOTHS FOR RVP II.



L-R: Dorothy Campbell, Evelyn Kirby



Barry Grier



L-R: Ed Gabel from NJ , Mary Jane Celli, NJ Past President, Ron Bowers



Nugget Hotel, site of the National Convention

## OCTOBER FEDERATION BOARD MEETING



Jo Fortney presenting \$1,100 check for Alzheimer's from Chapter 2274 Ocean Area to Ted Jensen.



Ron Bowers presenting Certificate of Appreciation to Barbara Walter. For her past work as Region II FEEA Scholarship Chair.



Jeanette Green's birthday.



**National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association**  
**Maryland Federation of Chapters – Chartered April 5, 1956**  
**Maryland Federation Newsletter**

Protect Your Retirement



Maryland Federation of Chapters  
Dick Strombotne  
310 High Gables Dr., Apt. 205  
Gaithersburg, MD 20874-7424  
**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

Come Visit  
The Maryland Federation Website  
at: [WWW.MDNARFE.ORG](http://WWW.MDNARFE.ORG)  
With Links for Easy Browsing!

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**Permit # 5715**

## ***CALENDAR OF EVENTS***

### ***2013***

|                |                                             |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------|
| February 5     | Federation Board Meeting                    |
| March 9-12     | Legislative Training Conference             |
| March 19       | United Seniors Legislative Forum, Annapolis |
| April 29-May 1 | Maryland Convention, Ocean City             |