

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association Northern Prince George's County Maryland Chapter 1122

*Beltsville, Berwyn Heights, College Park, Cheverly, Glenarden, Glenn Dale,
Greenbelt, Hyattsville, Landover Hills, Lanham, New Carrollton and Seabrook*

Website: www.mdnarfe.org/chapter1122



NARFE is the only association solely dedicated to safeguarding and improving the earned rights and benefits of America's active and retired federal employees. A team of government relations professionals in Washington tracks congressional action and agency proposals that affect your federal retirement benefits. NARFE's Legislative Department works simultaneously to preserve and enhance civil service annuity and health care benefits.

MANY BILLS IN CONGRESS RELATE TO NARFE

Dr. Howard Waterworth, 1st Vice President and Legislative Chair

We all know that Congress is searching for ways to produce a balanced annual budget and to reduce the ever-increasing national deficit. Among the ways to do this has been to reduce the size of the federal government and the benefits for its employees and retirees. This environment has made it difficult to maintain our benefits and almost impossible to improve them. But in spite of the current fiscal environment, our NARFE leaders have helped to preserve or improve many of our benefits as listed in the Chapter 1122 Newsletter (page 1 January 2012 issue).

Nonetheless the pressure is still on to reduce our incomes and benefits as measured by the large number of bills introduced to Congress in recent years including 2012. The Federal Diary of February 29 lists 25 House and Senate bills that would adversely affect Federal employees. Some would impose mandatory two-week unpaid furlough (H.R.270) or prohibit within grade step increases (H.R.3844). No fewer than three House bills and six Senate bills would extend pay freezes from one to 5 years (S.1936) and (S.2015). Three bills propose to reduce the size of the civilian workforce by as much as 10%

(H.R.2114) or by hiring one replacement for every two retirees (H.R.657) or three retirees (S.1611) and (H.R.3662). With some bills (H.R.3029), (H.R.3487) and (S.1476) this would be accomplished via attrition. Bill (H.R.3494) would reduce the workforce to no more than that of October 2007. Bill (H.R.1779) would prohibit hiring in any year in which the OMB projects federal deficit. Older federal employees compensation payments would be cut by a senate bill (S.261). (H.R.87) and (S.712) bills would endanger some federal employee rights, according to National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU). Two bills would adversely affect FERS employees by eliminating the defined benefits portion of their annuity (S.644) or would increase pension contributions and eliminate the FERS supplement H.R.3813). Regarding this bill, NARFE President Joseph Beaudoin stated that as Congress is "striving to find a way to keep paychecks level for America's middle-class workers, it is hypocritical that the House Oversight Committee would vote to force middle-class federal workers to pay an extra 1.5% of the salaries toward their retirement. Most federal workers earn between \$25,000 and \$75,000 a year, and the average

Volume 6, Number 4

April 2012

2012 Upcoming
Events

April - Celebrate
Earth Day

- April 30 - May 1
Maryland Mini
Convention
Bowie, MD
- August 26-30
National Convention
Reno, NV

Inside this issue:

Next Meeting Date	2
Newsletters on Line	2
Membership and Chapter Corner	2
Earth Day Famous Quote	3
Alzheimer's Caregiver's Letter	3
Treasurer's Report	3
Chapter Officers Committee Members	4
Important Phone Numbers	4



**Newsletters on Line
John Lydon, Newsletter Distributor via Email**

Join your fellow members by receiving your newsletter on line. It typically arrives earlier than the one delivered by mail. This helps our chapter save on postage when you elect to receive the electronic version of the newsletter in pdf format and full color. To receive a monthly notice by e-mail that our Chapter News-

letter is available, send a message to: lydon.j@verizon.net. Please include your full name and address with a request to receive notification that the newsletter is on the web site at: www.mdnarfe.org/chapter1122.



Chapter Membership

Chapter 1122 welcomes the following members who joined in March:

NEW MEMBER
Karen Sillers

NEW PROSPECTIVE MEMBER
Brenda Stanley

REINSTATED MEMBER
Guido Porreca

DROPPED MEMBERS (NON RENEWAL)

*April Ashpes
Harold E. Boesch
John H. Chen
Charlean W. Jackson
Thomas McDonald
Michael G. Moore
Agnes Newman
Edna H. Reynolds*

New, reinstated, transferred and prospective members please attend the meetings. Meet fellow members and enjoy some refreshments.

**NARFE
Chapter 1122
Total
Membership
As of
March
2012
647**

Next Meeting

Wednesday, April 11, 2012
at 1:30 pm

**Speaker
C. J. Onyeji**

**Physical Therapist
Professional Sports Care &
Rehabilitation Association**
**“Learn which exercises will
do the most for you”**



**1 2 3
Let's
Get Active
Move, Walk, Bend**

Note - Executive Board Meeting
Immediately following the
regular meeting

**Greenbriar Community Building
Terrace Room
7600 Hanover Parkway
Greenbelt MD 20770
Call the Office for directions
301-441-1096 Dial “0”**

Chapter Corner

A note from Bob Haas: Last month I expressed my appreciation of the tremendous job a few leaders of this chapter are doing. I failed to mention that a young lady, **Margaret Zanin**, has recently volunteered to be our Chaplain. This is most significant since she was previously Chaplain about 10 years ago. How about that? I thank her for her services now and during my presidency.

Due to the recent tornadoes/storms you may be eligible for NARFE's Disaster Relief Fund. Funds are limited to \$500 per

family. Please call the FEEA toll-free number at 800-338-0755 or (800-323-4140 after hours).

Donations are still needed for Alzheimer's Fund, NARFE-PAC and FEEA Education and Disaster Relief Fund. Donate today!

Hugh Gribben stepped down as Program Chair and Historian. Thank you Hugh for your service. We hope to see you at upcoming Chapter meetings.

Paul Terry has returned as Program Chair. Welcome back Paul and thank you for volunteering once again. Paul also furnished the refreshments at the March meeting.

Tentative plans are underway for the June Luncheon where newly

elected officers will be sworn in. More information on the luncheon will be announced in next month's newsletter.

The 50/50 winner at the March meeting was **Bob Doyle** who donated his winnings to the Chapter General Fund

Richard Benoff will represent the Chapter at the NARFE Maryland Mini Convention In Bowie, MD and **Bob Haas** will represent us at the NARFE National Conference in Reno, NV.

To all sick and shut-in members you are in our thoughts and prayers. We wish you a speedy recovery.

To all March and April Birthday Members Happy Birthday to you from all of us.



THANK YOU



IN MEMORIAM

Congress page 1

retired Federal worker receives a mean monthly annuity of \$720.” NETU President Colleen Kelley said “It seems like every week there is something new.”

Every bill must be debated by various committees and subcommittees and then it may be introduced to the full House or Senate for action. You can track the detailed status of every bill through this long process via the web at www.thomas.gov and by entering the bill number in your computer then click on the search key as I did. NARFE President Beaudoin said “The sheer number of bills in Congress attacking federal workers would be comical if the threats weren’t so serious.” One headline in the NARFE Legislative Hotline Report of February 17 states: “Civil Service remains target; employees now, retirees next?” Fortunately NARFE has been successful in opening new doors to address our concerns. The Wall Street Journal, USA Today and Fox News have run positive stories that mention NARFE and the importance of the federal workforce.

So, NARFE is fighting back. The ‘Protecting America’s Heartbeat’ campaign is improving the image of Federal workers (See pages 20-21 February issue of The NARFE Magazine). On “Call-your-Congressperson Day” February 15, thousands phoned or emailed both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue to express their views. You can let your views be known too, by using NARFE’s toll-free number 866-220-0044 and providing the name of your representative and senators.

Thank You to our March Speaker

**James Henderson, RFC®, CDFA®
President
Savant Tax & Business Services
301-459-3764 or 301-560-5492
savant@financier.com**

His presentation was very informative. We ran out of time for all the questions we had. Please contact him if you need his services.

**EXPERIENCE OF AN ALZHEIMER’S CAREGIVER
Creavery Lloyd, Alzheimer’s Chair**

The letter I received below shows just how important your donation is to the Alzheimer’s Fund.

Creavery,

My wife, Liz was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s in 1999, at age 72. She died in 2010 at age 81. During the intervening years, as she continued a slow decline to her death at home, I was her caregiver.

What did I know about caring for an Alzheimer’s patient? Nothing, not even how to spell Alzheimer’s, or what kind of a disease it was. So, as a man who had spent 36 years in the U.S. Navy, taking on caregiving responsibilities for my wife at home was an even greater mystery. But, thank God, the experience I did gain from life in the Navy in dealing with daily problems aboard destroyers and aircraft carriers at sea was a Godsend.

Thankfully, having learned the computer in 1998, I went on line and searched for the meaning of the word Alzheimer’s, and ended up finding the Alzheimer’s Association, National Capitol Area Chapter. From there on, the detailed guidance and suggestions they laid out for caregivers was straightforward. It just took lots of effort to implement: Making sure our home was Alzheimer’s safe for Liz. As her Alzheimer’s progressed, and her cognitive ability declined, and she got more anxious and inquisitive, I had to make sure she was safe at home: No trip hazards, no sharp knives out, no knobs on the electric stove, doors locked to preclude wandering, etc, etc, etc.

Then came personal hygiene care and feeding, etc, etc, etc.

Needless to say, the NCA Chapter advised me to welcome any help offered by family members, friends and neighbors; and as Liz’s condition further declined, to consider hiring an experienced daily caregiver, so I could get out of the house for a few hours of relaxation. They wanted to make sure I didn’t burn out from stress. Looking back at my caregiving experience, I have a better appreciation of the work of the NCA, Alzheimer’s Chapter. It provided me with the effective information and advice I needed to successfully care for Liz at home until her death. I used it like a bible, and now can better appreciate their need for fundraising support.

James Kehoe

**A Famous Quote
In Celebration Of
Earth Day**

Until a man duplicates a blade of grass, Nature can laugh at his so-called scientific knowledge. Remedies from chemicals will never stand in favorable comparison with the products of Nature, the living cell of a plant, the final result of the rays of the sun, the mother of all life.

*Thomas Alva
Edison
Inventor
1847-1931*

NARFE Chapter 1122 Treasurer’s Report for February 2012	
Balance as of 1/29/2012	\$3,300.30
Income:	
50/50 Raffle (Jan & Feb) Donation	14.00 7.00
NARFE (Dec & Jan Dues)	<u>265.01</u>
Total Income	286.01
Expenses:	
R. Doyle (NARFE Stationery)	15.50
B. Smith (Feb Refreshments)	17.80
U.S. Postal Service (Mailing Mar Newsletter)	<u>56.45</u>
Total Expenses	89.75
Balance as of 2/29/2012	\$3,496.56
Submitted: Warren C. Wilcox, Treasurer	

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Chapter 1122 Website
www.mdnarfe.org/chapter1122

MD Federation Website
www.mdnarfe.org

NARFE National Website
www.narfe.org



Earth Day - April 22

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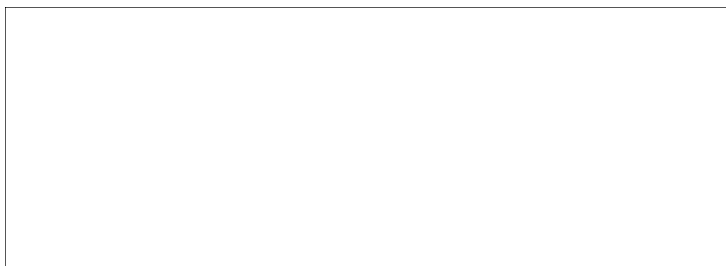
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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NARFE National Headquarters (Direct Line)
1-703-838-7760
NARFE Sponsored Line to Congress
1-866-220-0044

To contact Maryland Delegates and Representatives
Call 301-858-3000 or visit the NARFE Web Site
www.mdnarfe.org

To reach the Governor call
1-800-811-8336 or visit the Web Site
www.gov.state.md.us/mail

MARYLAND OFFICIALS & MORE

Martin J. O'Malley, Governor 1-800-811-8336
Anthony G. Brown, Lieutenant Governor 410-767-3125
Thomas Mike Miller, Jr., Pres./Senate 301-858-3700
Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House 301-858-3800
Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) 202-224-4654
Senator Benjamin L. Cardin (D-MD) 202-224-4524
Congressman Steny Hoyer (D-5th Dist.) 202-225-4131
Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards (D-4th Dist.)
202-225-8699
President Barack H. Obama 202-456-1111
White House Web Site: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/>

Inclment Weather Notice! When Prince George's County Schools are closed or opening late, the NARFE Chapter 1122 meeting will not be held.