



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](http://www.mdnarfe.org/chapter1122)

NARFE Chapter 1122  
3142 Gracefield Road #103  
Silver Spring MD 20904-5854

December 2011

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## Are More Changes Looming in 2012 for Active and Retired Feds?

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

Several congressional committee members have recently made various recommendations to the deficit-cutting "super committee" that would reduce benefits to Federal retirees. NARFE President Joseph Beaudoin has expressed concern about "the reckless plans sent to this committee that will impact the future of our nation's federal workforce." For example Representative Darrell Issa, Chair of House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, would slash one in ten federal jobs, freeze pay for 5 years and tax an extra 5% of a middle class federal worker's salary. In the Senate, Chairman of Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Joseph Lieberman's and Ranking Member Susan Collin's newly released commendations call for a 3-year pay freeze, a 1.2 % payroll tax, and less support for workers injured on the job.

There is uproar among leaders in Congress about the threat of lost benefits for military personnel. Yet members of Congress who are asking the super committee to weaken the federal workforce have hastily overlooked the fact that more than one million of our workers have jobs that are directly related and integral to the security and advancement of the U. S. Military. And other politicians are recommending other variations that would adversely affect our medical benefits, pay, employment levels, etc. NARFE President Beaudoin mentioned other adverse issues that are being considered by Congress such as extending the federal pay freeze through 2015 and cutting the federal workforce by 10%.

As part of his deficit reduction plan, President Obama would require federal workers to contribute an additional 1.2% of salary to retirement and would end the FERS annuity supplement saying it would cut the budget \$3.2 trillion over 10 years. Beaudoin asks why we would be required under the president's plan to pay an additional 1.2% payroll tax to a retirement plan that is already fully funded. Beaudoin said this policy would widen the disparity in benefits between the federal workforce and the private sector. According to the U. S. Department of Labor, private sector workers put in \$1 for every \$109 their employees contrib-

ute to their benefit plans. President Obama's proposal serves two purposes: To recommend to the super committee how to reduce the deficit by \$1.5 trillion and to pay the \$447 billion cost of the jobs bill he sent to Congress in September. A key feature of the jobs bill is to help stimulate the economy by cutting the Social Security Payroll Tax from 6.2% to 3.1%.

Ending the FERS supplement to make workers pay more for retirement has been widely discussed since it was recommended by the Fiscal Commission in December 2010, the president's plan to end the FERS annuity supplement for newly hired federal employees had not received serious consideration until now. The FERS annuity supplement is compensation paid in addition to the FERS monthly annuity to certain federal employees who are eligible to retire with an immediate annuity before age 62. Unlike CSRS annuitants, FERS retirees depend on the "3-legged stool" of their smaller annuity, the 401(k)-style Thrift Savings Plan and Social Security.

The overall average Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHBP) premium increases for non-postal and annuitants will be 3.8% in 2012. Last year the average increase was 7.3%. The average increase in the government's share will be 4%, the average share increase will be 3.5%; these values vary among the many plans available. On average, enrollees with self-only coverage will pay \$2.32 more per bi-weekly period. Those with family coverage will pay \$6.18 more while those with Blue Cross and Blue Shield Standard Option self only will pay \$.81 less, while family plans will be \$.72 less each pay period. Enrollees would be wise to review the benefits and premiums of various health plans then decide what coverage best fits their healthcare needs in the coming year. Some 206 health plan options are available including 10 fee-for-service plan choices, and 164 HMO choices; 15 of the plan choices are for high deductible plans and 13 are for consumer driven choices. The deadline to make changes is December 12, 2011.



**WELCOME  
OCTOBER  
NEW MEMBERS**

- Donald Comis
- Peter Fitzgibbons
- Valerie Grasso
- Kirtner D. Hobson
- Steve Krems
- Antoinette G. Sebastain

**REINSTATED MEMBERS**

- Beverly A. Arnette
- Norma Weetman

**New, Transferred or Reinstated members please come to the meetings. Get involved. Join a committee or suggest new ways the Chapter can become a more active and productive organization.**

**NARFE Chapter 1122  
Membership Total  
October 2011 - 636**

**October - Dropped  
Chapter Members**

- Patricia De Fino
- Lorrel E. Popp
- Lorie T. Stanley
- Linda Tokarz
- Shaunette R. Tutt
- Diane Wikerson

Some members were dropped for non-renewal. If you know anyone on the list above please give them a call and ask them to rejoin our chapter to help save our benefits.



**Holiday Luncheon**

**Wednesday, December 14 At 12:00 Noon**

**Teppanyaki Grill & Buffet**

14150 Baltimore Avenue  
Laurel, MD 20707

Cost: \$13 per person  
Includes Tax & Gratuity  
Open Buffet

Reservations by **December 5**

Check payable to: NARFE Chapter 1122

Send to: Warren Wilcox, 8141 Mandan Terrace  
Greenbelt, MD 20770

301-345-7437 or [wcwilcox@juno.com](mailto:wcwilcox@juno.com)



**John Lydon  
Newsletter Distributor  
Via Email Notification**

Our Chapter is encouraging all members to receive the electronic version of the newsletter on line in pdf format and full color. It typically arrives earlier than the one delivered by mail. To receive a monthly notice by e-mail that our Chapter Newsletter is available, send a message to:

[lydon.j@verizon.net](mailto:lydon.j@verizon.net). Please include your full name and address with a request to receive the notification that the newsletter is on the web site at:  
<http://www.mdnarfe.org/chapter112>

**NARFE Chapter 1122  
Treasurer's Report for  
October 2011**

Balance as of 9/30/2011	\$2,904.91
Income:	
Un-cashed Check (#1264 6/16/2010)	99.15
NARFE Dues (Sep)	<u>197.94</u>
Total Income	297.09
Expenses:	
CHI Centers Inc. (Printing Sep Newsletter)	76.94
B. Smith (Sep Refreshments)	28.87
L Shields (Nov Newsletter Mailing)	<u>56.72</u>
Total Expenses	162.53
Balance as of 10/31/2011	\$3,039.47
Submitted: Warren C. Wilcox, Treasurer	

**Our thoughts and prayers are with all Sick and Shut-In Chapter Members. We wish you a speedy recovery.**



**To all December  
Birthday Members a big  
Happy Birthday  
to You.  
From all of us!**



Special Thanks to Warren Wilcox for the delicious home baked goodies served at the November meeting  
And  
To the 50/50 Winner Warren McKay who donated his winnings back to the Chapter



**NINE MILLION DOLLARS FOR ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH!**

**Robert Haas, Public Relations Chair**

That is the grand total of contributions made to the Alzheimer's Association by the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association. Actually, it is now more than 9 million! NARFE's extraordinary giving record makes it the Alzheimer's Association's largest membership organization donor. More than 5.3 million Americans have Alzheimer's disease, which is the nation's sixth leading cause of death.

How did this small organization of just over 300,000 members raise such a tremendous amount of money? Some 26 years ago NARFE began collecting donations for Alzheimer's research. Bake sales are a favorite way of many NARFE chapters to raise funds for Alzheimer's. Many NARFE members baked thousands and thousands of cakes during these 26 years, which were then sold with all proceeds going to the Alzheimer's Association. Sometimes a cake was sliced at a chapter meeting so that everyone making a donation got a piece of cake.

In addition, perhaps a thousand or more members crocheted Afghans, or made quilts. These were raffled off at regional or national meetings, with all proceeds going to Alzheimer's. One member won a TV. He donated it to NARFE to be raffled off for Alzheimer's.

At the Maryland Federation meeting of state chapters the hat was always passed for Alzheimer's donations. Chapter newsletters solicited donations, and chapters proudly reported the totals donated. One Maryland chapter, 969 St. Mary's County has contributed \$115,116 to Alzheimer's since 1996. Most went to research but some went to local Alzheimer's advocacy efforts. NARFE's monthly magazine contains a coupon for donations to Alzheimer's Research.

No way are we resting on our laurels. At our national convention in Grand Rapids last August the members voted to raise our goal to \$10,000,000 for Alzheimer's research by the end of 2012. How about that? You can be sure NARFE members are working on it, and making progress!

**From the Editor's Desk**



As the year comes to a close, most of us are looking forward to holiday celebrations with family and friends. What a joyous occasion! This time of year always reminds me that we have many things to be thankful for--like the 3.6% COLA increase next year, the first in two years. Reveling in good fortune is wonderful. Yet, we should also keep in our prayers those whose situations are less fortunate: the long term unemployed; those facing foreclosures; the homeless; and those struggling to make ends meet.

Perhaps most distressing is what's faced by many of our military men and women returning home from battle, the lack of housing and jobs. They have made major sacrifices, yet are often part of the homeless population. Can we help? Certainly! How? By volunteering with organizations that help the military families with health care, housing and jobs. Call a veterans organization to offer your assistance and make a difference this season.

And there are many other ways to get involved. Help with food, clothing or donations for those in need, or send a card for someone who's lonely. These are simple acts that can make it a brighter season.

There is no greater gift than to share a little happiness with someone else. Here's wishing you and your families a very merry holiday season, and a Happy New Year!

Barbara Smith

**Alzheimer's Awareness  
Creavery Lloyd, Alzheimer's Chair**

There is still time to contribute to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. Send your donation today. Please note Chapter 1122 on your check. All contributions are tax deductible. See the coupon below.

**Chapter 1122 Alzheimer's Research Donation**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Amount ( ) \$5.00 ( ) Other \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: NARFE ALZ Research Fund

Send to: Creavery Lloyd, Alzheimer's Chair

6725 Lamont Drive, Lanham, MD 20706



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**3142 Gracefield Road #103**  
**Silver Spring MD 20904-5854**

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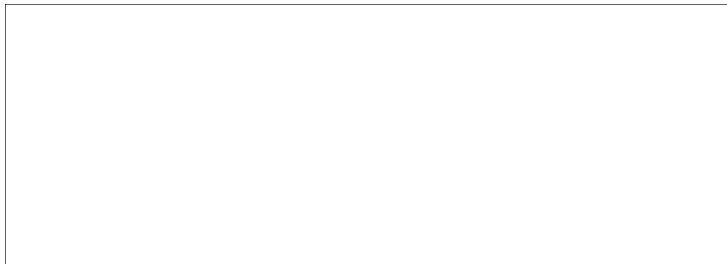
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**Chapter 1122 Website**  
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**MD Federation Website**  
[www.mdnarfe.org](http://www.mdnarfe.org)

**NARFE National Website**  
[www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org)

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



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Chapter 2146  
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**Emma E. Barnett**

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**Next Meeting - See Page 2**



**Holiday Luncheon**  
**December 14**

**Important Telephone Numbers**

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](http://www.mdnarfe.org)**

To reach the Governor call

1-800-811-8336 or visit the Web Site **[www.gov.state.md.us/mail](http://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:	<b><a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/">http://www.whitehouse.gov/</a></b>

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