

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

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



KEY FOCUS BILLS BEFORE CONGRESS THAT WOULD REDUCE BENEFITS

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

In the June and September issues of this newsletter I briefly described about 11 House Bills and 8 bills before the Senate that would have affected Federal employees and retirees if enacted. Here I provide an update on the status of many of those 19 bills. Some of them may be acted upon during the lame duck session by the current Congress between election day and December 31. Some are no longer under consideration but relevant portions are included as a part of newer bills with different numbers. Given the upcoming election, it's anyone's guess as to what will happen with these bills when the new Congress convenes after January 1 if not acted upon by the lame duck Congress.

In a recent on line updated report, NARFE has now identified 4 Senate bills and 5 House bills known as 'Key Focus Bills' (KFB) because they focus primarily on us Feds and are not a small part of some major bill on other subjects. NARFE supports some of these Key Focus Bills and opposes others.

Among these KFBs is S. 644, which would eliminate the defined annuity entirely for federal workers hired after 2012 (which has been in place for the past 90 years). NARFE opposes this bill. Some 6 House bills and 3 Senate bills propose to decrease the size of government by 5 to 15% and have been referred to various committees. Among these are KFB S. 2065 and companion bill H.R. 3662 which would extend the two-year pay freeze through June 2014 for civilian employees, restrict hiring for five years, and fill 2 positions for every 3 vacancies. NARFE opposes this bill also. Another KFB is S. 2196 that would phase out the Medicare program and move the entire Medicare population into the FEHB program, which would cause an increase in premiums for Feds and retirees, and threaten the affordability of health coverage for seniors. It would also increase the eligibility age to 70 and require wealthier retirees to pay higher premiums; NARFE opposes these also.

On the House side is KFB H.R. 2465 which was passed by House vote and which NARFE supported. This bill streamlines the claims process. It insures that workers receive adequate compensation, improves integrity and modernizes benefits.

KFB H.R. 3813 increases current employee contribution under both CSRS and FERS; changes annuity calculation and eliminates FERS Annuity supplement. It was reported favorably by Committee in February. NARFE opposes this bill.

Another KFB H.R. 3835 is a pay freeze extension of the current 2-year freeze and includes members of Congress. It was passed by the House; NARFE opposes this bill.

A newer KFB is H.R. 5652 known as the Sequester Replacement Act. It would increase CSRS and FERS employee contributions toward their retirement by 5% of salary over 5 years beginning in 2013. KFB H.R. 2309 would overhaul the U. S. Postal Service and establish a commission on Postal Reorganization as an independent commission to do this.

Finally, there is a Congressional Resolution #112 for FY 2013 which would extend the pay freeze for 3 years and increase retirement contributions. It includes instructions to 6 House committees including the House Oversight and Government Reform. It was passed by the House; but a Senate Motion to proceed was rejected.

If you have an opinion on any of these Key Focus Bills before the election, now is the time to let your political officials know. The phone numbers are in every issue of this newsletter.

Volume 6, Number 8

October 2012

2012 Upcoming
Events

October 8
Columbus Day

November 6
Election Day

November 12
Veterans Day

• October 2
Federation Board
Meeting

• October 26
Federation Fall
Training

• Nov 12 - Dec 10
FEHBP Open Season

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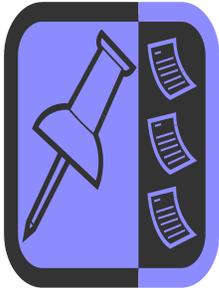
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Newsletters on Line John Lydon, Newsletter Distributor via Email

To receive a monthly notice that the chapter newsletter is on line send an email to lydon.j@verizon.net include your full name and address with a request to be notified that the newsletter is on the web site at: <http://www.mdnarfe.org/chapter1122/>

Note: You may double click on any internet address (URL) in this newsletter to connect directly to the associated site or email address.



Chapter 1122 as a Member of United Seniors of Maryland Furnishes the Following Notice on the November General Election

United Seniors of Maryland has updated their website with information on the November 2012 general election.

The following information can be viewed on the website:

- * A complete list of all candidates running in the 2012 general election
 - * Democratic, Republican, and all others too
 - * President & Vice President, US Senator from Maryland, all 8 Congressional districts
- * Photos and links to their websites, when they have them and they are able to be found
- * Maps of all the Congressional districts in Maryland
- * Exact language of all 7 statewide questions that will be on the ballot
- * List of the questions on ballots in each of the Maryland counties and Baltimore City
- * Links to all the sample ballots for each county in Maryland

The general election information can be found at: <http://unitedseniors.net/2012%20election.htm>

Chapter Corner

Congratulations to newly elected officers Richard Bennof and Elaine Cameron



Richard Bennof

Chapter President Richard Bennof started his career working with the D. C. Government and retired from the National Science Foundation in 2010 after more than 35 years of federal service. He will be installed with other newly elected chapter presidents by the Maryland Federation on October 2.

2nd Vice President Elaine Cameron is employed at the U.S. Government Printing Office where she has worked for the last 20 years. Prior to her Federal Service she worked at many top local Newspapers. She also serves on the Board of Directors of two Federal Credit Unions. Elaine will assume the duties of Chapter Membership Chair.



Elaine Cameron

Lee Shields, Newsletter Distributor will attend the October 2 Federation meeting with Richard and Elaine.

Thanks go to Robert Haas, Public Relations Officer for representing the chapter at the NARFE 32nd National Convention in Reno-Sparks, NV in August. See his report on page 3.

The 50/50 winner at the September meeting was none other than our new president - Richard Bennof.

To all sick and shut in members we wish you a speedy recovery. To all October Birthday members "HAPPY BIRTHDAY" from all of us!

Have chapter news or articles to share? Email the editor: bsg.smith@verizon.net

OCTOBER MEETING

Wednesday, October 10, 2012 At 1:30 PM

All Are
Welcome

Guest Speaker
Jacqueline Williams

Refreshments
Served

She will speak on the resources available
for the care of the elderly or infirm

After 5 years with Capitol Hospice Jacqui started her own
program to help those who did not qualify for Hospice care,
as well as those who did.

Greenbriar Community Building, Terrace Room, 7600 Hanover Parkway,
Greenbelt MD 20770. Call Office for directions 301-441-1096 Dial "0"

Note: Executive Board Meeting Immediately following regular meeting.



NARFE 32nd National Convention Report

Robert Haas, Public Relations Officer



Arriving late Sunday evening in Reno was my first mistake. I entered a door labeled Registration, but found an empty Lobby. Finally saw someone to assign me a room. I walked and walked to get to this room, then had trouble with the card unlocking the door, finally got it to work. Had nothing to eat all day except a few pretzels on the airplane, but was too tired to look for eats, so relied upon a couple of shot size bottles of bourbon and went to bed.

This hotel was super-size. I am a walker, but got annoyed at the distance we had to walk to meetings and restaurants. There must have been 3,000 slot machines in this hotel, everywhere except in your bathroom. Since there was no alternative I went to breakfast in the hotel. Breakfast was \$12 and other meals were also expensive. Good thing I don't eat a lot.

The meeting took place in a large room, seating 1,100 people at tables. We were revising the bylaws, and all was well organized. When a bylaw was suggested, anyone had the opportunity to speak for or against it. Our people from headquarters did a most impressive job of conducting this convention.

The first speaker on Monday morning was John Berry, head of OPM. He is a nice looking young man with a winning smile, and I thought, Oh no, another Politician. After he spoke of some of his accomplishments I had a much better opinion of him. He is a NARFE member and

seems to have a close relationship with NARFE's President Joseph Beaudoin. He reported about increasing the number of veterans employed by the government from 24% to 28%. He also reported increasing the number of disabled persons employed by the government. He ended his talk by saying that we were the generation that ended segregation, put a man on the moon, stopped the communist threat to world power, and gave us the internet.

All national officers were reelected, as there were no opposing candidates. There was an interesting contest for Region II Vice President, our region, which includes Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey, and the District of Columbia. This is a paid position, paying about \$23,000 per year, I believe. We had three candidates from the MD Federation, Ron Bowers, the current Vice President, Barry Greer, and Evelyn Kirby running for office. I was close to Ron, supporting him when he ran for this position, but recognized that Evelyn Kirby had much to offer. I had 12 votes, one vote for every 50 members in our chapter, so I split my vote, 6 to Ron, and 6 to Evelyn Kirby, who was elected.

The convention was most impressive and I hope other members of the executive board will attend in the future. The next one will be in Orlando, FL in 2014.

Presidential Quote In Celebration Of Columbus Day

Columbus stood in his age as the pioneer of progress and achievement. The system of universal education is in our age the most prominent and salutary feature of the spirit of enlightenment, and it is peculiarly appropriate that the schools be made by the people the center of the day's demonstration. Let the national flag float over every school-house in the country, and the exercises be such as shall impress upon our youth the patriotic duties of American citizenship.

Benjamin Harrison
23rd U. S. President
1859 - 1893

Thanks to our September guest speaker
Jerome J. McDonald, Ph.D.
NARFE Member and FDA Retiree
for his Presentation on "Waterways of the Czars"

His narrative and slides of his river trip from St. Petersburg to Moscow were interesting and fascinating to us all.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Are you a "snow bird?" Do you go south for the winter? Do you take long summer vacations? Extended trips? Please inform the chapter of any long-term change of address or a forwarding address so that we can get the monthly newsletter to you wherever you go. Moreover, it avoids the extra postage charges if your mail is returned! **Contact: NARFE Chapter 1122, 7353 Green Oak Terrace, Lanham, MD 20706**

NARFE Chapter 1122 Treasurer's Report for August 2012

Balance as of 7/31/2012	\$3,460.86
Income:	
NARFE (Jul Dues)	<u>341.52</u>
Total Income	341.52
Expenses:	
US Postal Service (Mailing Sept Newsletter)	<u>51.50</u>
Total Expenses	51.50
Balance as of 8/31/2012	\$3,750.88

Submitted: Warren C. Wilcox, Treasurer

TIME SENSITIVE MAIL DO NOT DELAY DELIVERY

NON-PROFIT ORG.

US Postage Paid

College Park

Permit # 3772

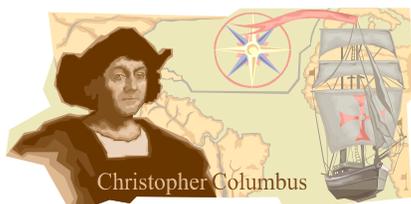


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7353 Green Oak Terrace
Lanham, MD 20706

Chapter 1122 Website
www.mdnarfe.org/chapter1122

MD Federation Website
www.mdnarfe.org

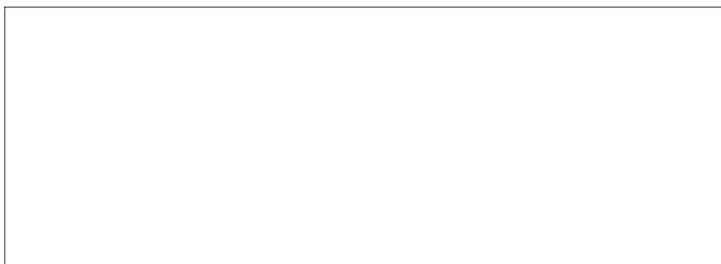
NARFE National Website
www.narfe.org



Christopher Columbus

Columbus Day - October 8

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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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

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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/

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