



B-CC BUZZ

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

September - November 2012

President's Corner

Chapter members attending our June meeting voted overwhelmingly to continue bimonthly instead of monthly meetings. Chapter 258 meetings will be held on the second Friday in September, November (2012); February, April, and June (2013).

To implement this decision two sections of our bylaws must be changed. Bylaws can be changed only by a 2/3 vote of members attending a chapter meeting provided members are notified of the meeting at least 30 days before the vote is taken. We will vote on these changes at our November 9 meeting. The specific bylaws changes are described on page 3.

Nora Taylor has served Chapter 258 for many years as Chapter Service Officer. Nora has decided to step down from this important position. David Richman, who has served as Chapter Program Chair, expressed an interest in the Service Officer post and I have appointed David to this chapter position. This means that we need a new Program Chair, whose duties include choosing programs for our chapter meetings. This position will be easier now that we are meeting only five times a year instead of nine. I have arranged our speakers for September and November. A new Program Chair would be responsible for finding topics and inviting speakers for February, April and June 2013 meetings.

Mr. Lockett Yee generously offered to serve as Membership Chair however, shortly after I appointed him, Mr. Yee became reemployed full time and had to step down as Membership Chair. The chapter urgently needs a replacement.

Also, the chapter needs one more member to serve on the Nominating Committee along with Lionel Pasiuk, who is Chair of committee and Richard Fidler

These are important positions in our chapter and we urgently need volunteers to help manage the affairs of Chapter 258. PLEASE HELP!

Gordon Brown

September 14: Making County A Community for a Lifetime

Judith Welles, Chair of the Montgomery County Commission on Aging, has been invited to speak about the Commission and the "Senior Agenda:" goals and vision for Montgomery County to be a Community for a Lifetime - a place for older adults to live safe, healthy and vital lives. The Commission on Aging, with its 25 members appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council, advises the County Executive and these and other County government programs. Also, commission members advocate on behalf of the County's older adult residents. One of the Commission's goals is to help residents age successfully in the County by supporting programs such as safety-net services for the frail elderly and by meeting the interests and needs of all older adults living in the County. The Commission brings expertise from business, community services, labor, government, health organizations and agencies concerned with aging. Information about the Commission's activities and meetings, all open to the public, can be found at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COA or by calling 240-777-1120. Information and resources for older adults can be found at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/senior or by calling 240-777-3000.

Judy is a member of Chapter 258 and assists on the newsletter BUZZ. In her spare time, she is a speaker for the Montgomery County Historical Society, leads history walking tours of Cabin John, and also volunteers at the C&O Canal National Historical Park. She authored the local history, *Cabin John: Legends and Life of an Uncommon Place*, and has also authored an e-book on work life and management entitled *Get a Life, Try This!* for Kindle and Nook. Her newest local history book and biography, *Lilly Stone*, will be published in September. In her previous life, Judy was media relations manager for PricewaterhouseCoopers and IBM after retiring from the federal government as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and, later, Director of Communications for the U.S. Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

November 9: Health Insurance Queries

Because it is November, because it is the month that federal employees once again consider their choices in health insurance, the board has invited Ms. Jennifer Malave to speak on this topic. Ms. Malave's presentation will cover changes to Federal Employee Policy (FEP) - standard option and basic- in regard to CareFirst BCBS plan. In addition, Jennifer will address the Affordable Care Act Initiative and how it will affect all FEP plans.

Ms. Malave has worked at CareFirst Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) for 23 years. Jennifer started at BCBS as a customer service representative where she learned the benefits "like the back of my hand" and "when (businesses) still taught old school customer service skills such as the customer always comes first." Jennifer has valued this motto that has carried her into the other positions at CareFirst. Ultimately, she accepted the position as FEP Marketing Representative for CareFirst BCBS, "loving it" for the last 14 years. Jennifer's contacts include over 60 federal agencies, all of USDA, and the Supreme Court, just to name a few, as well as 10 NARFE chapters. She especially enjoys working with NARFE members because she finds them to be one of the well-informed groups. In addition to her work, Ms. Malave is involved in antiquing and has recently started the hobby of refurbishing used furniture. She lives with her family in Alexandria, VA.

Dates For Health Benefit Forums

Congressman Chris Van Hollen will hold his 10th Annual Federal Employees Health Benefits forums in cooperation with NARFE on Thursday morning, November 15 in Wheaton and on Wednesday evening, November 28 in Rockville.

Experts on federal health insurance plans and representatives of health insurance carriers will be present at both sessions to discuss various health plan options, the impact of new health care reforms and answer individual questions.

Thursday, November 15, 2012 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. (Panel begins at 9:30 a.m.) Holiday Park Senior Center 3950 Ferrara Drive Wheaton, MD 20906	Wednesday, November 28, 2012 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. (Panel begins at 7:30 p.m.) Executive Office Building 101 Monroe Street Rockville, MD 20850
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Legislative Report

Members are urged to review the August Issue of NARFE. It lays out the legislative battles members will face in the Lame Duck session of Congress after the November elections and how NARFE proposes to respond. Unfortunately, both federal employees and retirees are now being considered, by the general public, to be in the same category as state, county and city employees whose extravagant retirement and health care programs are forcing municipal governments into bankruptcy. In various advertising programs, NARFE is trying to show the differences. To proceed with this campaign NARFE needs financial support from its members.

Another issue that the general public wants addressed: reduce the size of the federal government and accomplish this by across the board reductions. Note, there are many "cradle to the grave" social programs that were not even considered 50 years ago that need to be reconsidered for affordability before legislators arbitrarily reduce the programs that the federal government is basically responsible for, that is, Defense, Law and Order, Natural Resources and Infrastructure.

By Laurin Knutsen

SAVE THE DATES!

Sept 10 Monday	Executive Board Meeting 10 a.m., Ledo's Restaurant, 10300 Westlake Dr., Bethesda (Near Montgomery Mall)
Sept 14 Friday	Chapter Meeting/Senior Agenda 12 p.m., Alfio's La Trattoria
Nov 5 Monday	Executive Board Meeting, 10 a.m., Ledo's Restaurant
Nov 9 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 \$14.00; 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 Mondays at 10 a.m.

Chapter 258 Membership

New Members

Welcome to our new members who joined during April through July. Please tell other federal employees about NARFE membership. We hope to see many of you at this year's meetings: Patricia A. Casper, Linda Cleveland, Josephine R. Cohen, Nona B. Cox, Mary Lewis Davison, Robert Draggon, Cheryl J. Gallagher, Joe Gordon, Julius E. Hoffman, William G. Kanter, Martha J. Langelan, Marta H. Legeckis, Marlis Majerus, Sally Maran, Anette McKee, Sally B. Mooney, Gail Poe, Charlotte H. Resnick, Loretta Schuman and Karen M. Stakes.

Join GEMS (Global Electronic Messaging System)

NARFE is in a critical situation now. Federal employees and annuitants are under almost constant attack by those in Congress and others. If we are to resist those attacks, we must keep informed almost daily on who is attacking us, what they propose to do to us, and what NARFE is doing to fight back.

The best way to keep informed is by enrolling in GEMS, a NARFE headquarters service that sends frequent updates on happenings on Capitol Hill that may affect us. All, who have a computer, are urged to join GEMS today! It is easy to do. Go to the website www.narfe.org, enter your NARFE ID number and your last name; on the next screen, check "Join GEMS," enter your ID No. and date of birth, and check "Enter." On the next screen, check "All GEMS messages," then check "Submit." You will be glad you did.

Proposed Changes to Bylaws

ARTICLE IV. MEETINGS, QUORUM, AND ORDER OF BUSINESS

Section 1 of our Bylaws currently states: Regular Chapter membership meetings shall be held on the second Friday of each month as determined by the Board of Directors.

Proposed amendment: Regular Chapter membership meetings shall be held on the second Fridays of September, November, February, April, and June, or as determined by the Board of Directors, or by vote of a majority of members attending a regular or special membership meeting. (I think this gives the Board

discretion in setting meeting dates and it also lets the membership hold more regular meetings if they want to.)

No change in the rest of that Section; that Section also says: Special meetings of the Chapter may be called by the President. The Chapter Board of Directors shall set the times of meetings. A quorum is the number of members attending any meeting.

ARTICLE VI. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 1 now says: Not later than the December meetings in even-numbered years, the President shall appoint the Chair of the Nominating Committee, and two additional members, one of whom shall be the Immediate Past President. The Nominating Committee shall present, at the regular Chapter meeting in March, the names of members nominated for each elective office, and stating that each nominee has consented to serve if elected.

We will not be meeting in December and March; *Proposed amendment: Change December to November in line 1 and change March to February in line 4.*

Section 2 of Article VI says: Election of officers will take place at the regular Chapter meetings in April of odd-numbered years. Chapter officers shall be elected by simple majority to two-year terms, and shall be installed at the June meeting to be effective as of installation.

ARTICLE X. NATIONAL AND FEDERATION CONVENTIONS.

Sections 1 and 2 deal with establishment and purpose of the National Convention Fund. I propose adding the following to Section 2, which deals with the purpose of the Fund.

Amounts remaining in the National Convention Fund after reimbursement of appropriate delegates' expenses shall be returned to the Chapter's general fund.

Our Sympathy



We mourn the loss and the passing of the following Chapter members, reported in April through July 2012. Carolyn P. Brown, Annette K. Goldberg, Carl N. Jones, Minnie Lifshitz, Ethel Maness, Paul A. Modic, Richard R. Otto, Richard A. Peabody, Thomas J. Scott, George E. Taylor, Stewart H. Tinsman, Max Tryon and Elsie Woolman.

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Community for a Lifetime, September 14
Health Insurance Changes, November 9

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