



# B-CC BUZZ

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

September - November 2013

## September 13: County Council President

Nancy Navarro, currently the President of Montgomery County Council, is the invited speaker for our chapter meeting. As President, Ms Navarro has been engaged in the budget proposal especially affecting programs for the aging population. Ms Navarro was elected to represent District 4 on the Council in a special election in 2009 and re-elected in the general election in 2010. Since 2010, Nancy has chaired the Government Operations and Fiscal Policy (GO) Committee and serves on the Health and Human Services Committee.



Prior to joining the Council, Ms Navarro was a member of the Montgomery County Board of Education, where she served two consecutive terms as Board President. Before entering public office, Ms Navarro co-founded a non-profit, community-based organization with a mission to assist the economic and educational development of Latino and other immigrant communities. School readiness, healthy family development, and academic achievement were the primary focus of the organization. Nancy Navarro has volunteered for many organizations and has received numerous awards: the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Montgomery County's Leadership Award, the Maryland State Department of Education's Women Who Dare Leadership Award, for example.

Ms Navarro graduated with a bachelor's degree (psychology) from the University of Missouri-Columbia. She was born in Caracas, Venezuela and has lived in Montgomery County for more than two decades with her husband, Reginald, and two daughters.

*".....because often times we may have a sense of what we want to be, where we are going, or which turn to make- but somehow life may have other plans for you- so you must always be prepared for what comes your way." Adapted from June 2013, Wheaton High School Commencement Address.*

## November 8: Health Insurance Update

November is the month that federal employees once again consider their choices in health insurance. On November 8, Ms. Jennifer Malave returns as our invited speaker. Ms. Malave's presentation will cover changes to Federal Employee Policy (FEP) - standard option and basic- in regard to Care First Blue Cross/Blue Shield 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 24 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 where she held the position for 14 years. Her department recently changed their name and her title. Her team recently took over the management of the local Plan HMO, Blue Choice, that is offered to federal employees and so the department is now called "FEHBP Account Management and OPM Relations." Her new title is too long to explain but in short, she is still an Account Manager.

Ms Malave's contacts include over 60 federal agencies, all of USDA, the Department of Labor 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 most well-informed groups. In addition to her work, Ms. Malave is involved in antiquing and continues her 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 11th Annual Federal Employees Health Benefits forums in cooperation with NARFE on Monday morning, November 18 in Wheaton, on Wednesday evening; November 20 in Rockville: Friday morning, November 22 in Mount Airy.

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.

Monday, November 18, 2013

9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

(Panel: 9:30-10:30 a.m.)

Holiday Park Senior Center  
3950 Ferrara Drive  
Wheaton, MD 20906

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

(Panel: at 10:30-11:30 a.m.)

Executive Office Building  
101 Monroe Street  
Rockville, MD 20850

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

(Panel: at 10:30-11:30 a.m.)

Executive Office Building  
101 Monroe Street  
Rockville, MD 20850

## Legislative Report

The Maryland General Assembly ended its 433rd session in April during which 692 bills were enacted, among the bills:

- Repeal the death penalty in Maryland; a person who is convicted of first degree murder must be sentenced to life imprisonment or life without possibility of parole.
- Impose some of the strictest gun control measures in the country.
- Increase Medicaid spending by \$251 million, a 3.5% increase.
- Bring State laws into conformity with the Federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; some of these provisions will be in effect Jan. 1, 2014.
- Increase the number of early voting centers in certain counties; the law also establishes more days and extended operating hours for 2014.
- Montgomery County will benefit by \$1 billion in State support in 2014, some of that in direct aid, and some in expanded retirement payments, operating assistance for mass transit programs and programs focused on health, mental health, developmental disabilities, alcohol and drug abuse treatment, prevention and disease control, and child welfare services. The State will also provide operating assistance for Metrorail, Metrobus, and Ride-On.

*Abbreviated Report submitted by Gordon Brown*

## The Importance of Political Action Committees (PAC)

The NARFE-PAC pools campaign contributions from its members and donates those funds to support those in congress who help to protect us against unfair attacks on our earned benefits. Many years ago as National Secretary

I represented NARFE at a Capitol Hill reception for a retiring congressman. While waiting for the congressman to arrive, a postal union representative mentioned “NARFE has the best legislative staff on Capitol Hill.” Considering the source, I interpreted this statement as a great tribute to NARFE and its legislative staff. NARFE has an experienced, exceptionally well-informed and accomplished legislative staff, but it takes money to keep its staff as effective; much of the funding comes from NARFE-PAC.

As the PAC Committee Chair, this is my appeal to Chapter 258 members to support NARFE-PAC. In each monthly issue of NARFE magazine there is NARFE-PAC donation coupon. Please use it and consider becoming a NARFE-PAC Sustainers, authorizing (via credit card) a monthly donation (\$10 minimum). What an easy way to support NARFE-PAC. I proudly wear my Sustainer pin at every Chapter meeting.

More recently, the Maryland Federation has established an MD-PAC. The MD-PAC finances the State Legislative Committee. The MD-PAC supports the work of our state legislative staff in much the same way as the NARFE-PAC on the federal level. It takes money for federation representatives to attend legislators’ fund raisers and to support the pro NARFE state legislators. I support MD-PAC and ask all of our chapter members to do the same. Donations can be made by check payable to MD-PAC either sent to Dave Roseman, 6 Thorburn Rd, Gaithersburg, Md 20878-2621, or to me, Gordon Brown, 7401 Westlake Terrace, Apt 806, Bethesda 20817. Alternately, bring the check to me (chapter MD-PAC representative) at a chapter meeting. The MD-PAC donation must include your name and address.

*Submitted by Gordon Brown*

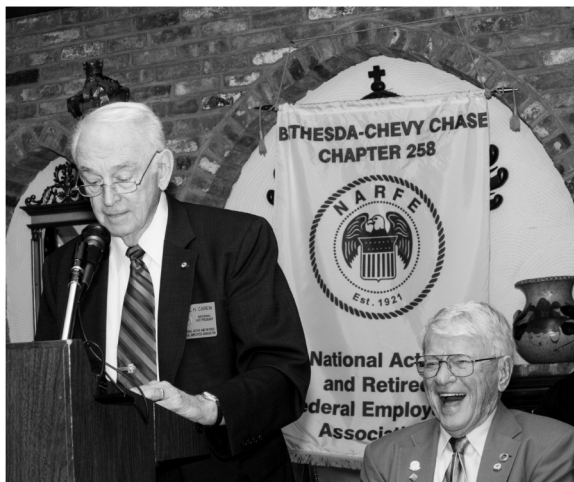
## Service Officer Needed

A very important aspect of your membership in NARFE is the service role provided by NARFE headquarters – read the Questions & Answers section of your NARFE magazine. It’s provided by NARFE’s Federal Benefits Service Department staff. Every NARFE chapter has a service officer, someone who helps members with retirement benefit-related issues. Why? Because if you’ve ever sought to get information after you’ve retired from your former agency or department or called OPM for help, you may be unable to get through, be sent somewhere else or be a bit frustrated. I’m currently serving in an “acting” role as our chapter’s Service Officer. I recently took over as Legislation Chairman, we need someone to take my place as Service Officer. If you are interested please consider taking this on to help fellow members who may need help and guidance about issues they face that involve aspects of their federal service benefits. Give me a call at 301-770-3608; if you can help in this area.

*David Richman*



2013-2015 Chapter 258 Board Members: (L to R) Jo Ann Chin; Maxine Lesniak; Wesley Chin; Allan Kam; Constance Price; Gordon Brown. (Absent- Henry Gwiazda)



Paul Carew- NARFE National Vice President- congratulates (with humorous comments) Gordon Brown not only for service as Chapter 258 President but also his 34 years service in NARFE. [For those not in attendance at June meeting, the incoming president, Allan Kam, began his official duties with a "Roast" to Gordon along with his thanks.]

## Chapter 258 Membership

**New Members:** Welcome to our new members who joined during April through August 2013. Please tell other federal employees about NARFE membership. We hope to see many of you at this year's meetings: Chandini Bachman, Hsi Cheng, Sarah East, David Kosterlitz, Stanley C Langfeld, Carole Mumford, Fred W Sand and Daniel Sporkin.

### SAVE THE DATES!

#### No board meeting in September

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Sept 13 Friday | Chapter meeting/ Mtg Cty Council President<br>12:00 p.m., Alfio's La Trattoria                          |
| Nov 5 Tuesday  | Exec Board Mtg 10:00 a.m.,<br>Ledo's Restaurant, 10300 Westlake Dr.,<br>Bethesda (Near Montgomery Mall) |
| Nov 9 Friday   | Chapter meeting/Health Insurance<br>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 Tuesdays at 10 a.m.

### Our Sympathy

We mourn the loss and the passing of the following Chapter members, reported in April through August 2013. Manuel Abrams, David J Adam, William F Bauch, Edward Betzig, Beverly H Butler, Bruce Conger, Cyrus R Creveling, Andrew J Cummings, John L Dennis, Murray W. Farmer, Richard S Goodwin, Harry J Greenspan, Virginia Hiller, Madelaine T Husic, Vincent L Johnson, Edward Karpoff, Matthew J Kerper, Rita Koegel, Rose Leonti, Leonard L Lourie, Sidney Manekofsky, James W Mannion, Edward G Misey, Raymond W Morton, Hideyuki Noguchi, Elliot S Pierce, Helen Rosen, Bella J Ross, Susan Shanto, Elizabeth M Sprague, Pauline G Stein, Charles Suraci, Nancy C Swan, Melverene E Thiel, Vincent P Valley, Stella M Weese and Joseph A Woolman.

*Chapter 258 members who have email addresses may opt out of receiving the BUZZ paper version and post card meeting announcements (and thus save us the cost of postage) by contacting Jo Ann Chin (jochin@verizon.net).*



Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chapter 258  
National Active and Retired Federal Employees  
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**County Council President, September 13**  
**Health Insurance Updates, November 8**

### Chapter Officers

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### Committee Chairs

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**Newsletter**  
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**Membership**  
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### Congressional Delegation

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Senator Benjamin L. Cardin  
202 224 4524

Representative Chris Van Hollen, Jr.  
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