



National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association
Gaithersburg Chapter 581

In our fifty-fifth year of supporting most of the Montgomery Upcounty Communities

April 2011

Our Next Membership Meeting:

April 26, at 11:30 a.m. in Rooms A-B, **Rosborough Center**, Asbury Center, Asbury Methodist Village. (See page 7 for details.) **Annual Luncheon & Legislative Forum**, Social Half-hour, Lunch, 12 noon; Forum, 1 p.m.

Other Upcoming Events

April 21 (Thursday)

Chapter 581 Board Meeting
GUESTS WELCOME!
Conley Hall, Trott Building
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

April 27 (Wednesday)

Newsletter Deadline

May 2-3 (Monday - Tuesday)

Maryland Federation Convention
Comfort Inn, Bowie, Maryland

May 5 (Thursday)

Newsletter Assembly
Library, Edwards-Fisher Bldg.
9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

May 19 (Thursday)

Chapter 581 Board Meeting
GUESTS WELCOME!
Conley Hall, Trott Building
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

May 24 (Tuesday)

Chapter Meeting
Rooms A-B Rosborough Center
Ten Tips to Create a Lasting Legacy for Your Loved Ones,
Gary Altman, Attorney.
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

June 14 (Tuesday)

Annual Picnic
Bohrer Park, Gaithersburg
12:00 noon

Put these dates on your calendar

ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE FORUM

The Maryland General Assembly meets for ninety days each year to act on a large number of bills including the State's annual budget. If you're interested in what happened during the 428th Session, join us at our April meeting. Each year we invite our local senators and delegates to a Legislative Forum to hear about decisions that were made and what to expect in the future. Most of the invited legislators join us at the luncheon held before the meeting, giving us an additional opportunity for interacting with them.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE... *Mary Anne Scott*

By now most of you have received your April issue of the NARFE magazine. I strongly urge you to read the cover story carefully and respond accordingly. NARFE has initiated a national campaign, with a slogan of "Protect America's Heartbeat," to fight drastic cuts in pay, health, and retirement benefits of active and retired federal workers.

It seems that every week brings another assault on federal workers. Most recently, a bill (S. 644) was put before Congress that would eliminate pensions for all new federal employees. NARFE President Joe Beaudoin responded with a strong statement that included this quote: "Changes to policies that affect federal employees threaten the future of the vital services they perform. Without employment packages that are competitive in the professional marketplace, our government will struggle to attract the best workers to protect us." We cannot expect NARFE headquarters to bear the full burden of responding to these threats. We have to do our part.

A recent telling quote from a Marylander member of the State Legislative Committee stated, "Legislators tell us that a quiet constituency is a contented constituency and we are very quiet. Witness the number of subscribers to GEMS, the number who respond to calls from HQ for members to visit/communicate with their senators and representatives." It is past time to set aside our complacency and become our own best grassroots advocates. The national campaign referred to above provides a vehicle to help us do that - especially since Maryland is one of the eleven priority states selected for focus in that campaign. One of the elements of that campaign is "telling our stories." I'm sure among our over 1,300 members there are some great stories of contributions made to the health and well-being of the general population that have gone unremarked for too long. You'll be hearing more details in the months ahead, but in the meantime be sure to check out www.ProtectAmericasHeartbeat.org.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Jim Cowie, Chair MDFed Federal Legislative Committee Coordinator for District 4 and more



We now have had six short term continuing resolutions to keep the Government running. These involved agreement on cuts of some billions of dollars to the Federal budget for the current fiscal year which ends in September. However, patience is running out on short term solutions and it remains uncertain what kind of compromise might be acceptable to stop the Government from being shut down.

In addition, the current Federal debt limit will be breached in the very near future and there will be severe economic consequences if there is no agreement for it to be raised. Hence this is another area of contention that will feature in the compromises that finally emerge from our polarized politics.

Although the squabbles over this year's Federal budget and, towards the end of the year, the proposals for next year's budget are of major concern to the Federal Community, these issues contribute little to reducing the national debt. This topic affects every citizen and is likely to be a major election issue alongside concerns about the economy and unemployment. Hence both political parties are proceeding very cautiously in addressing possible solutions to the debt issue to avoid being disadvantaged by being associated with proposed policies that are poorly received by the electorate.

NARFE has plans to improve the reputation of the Federal Community by a project called "Protect America's Heartbeat" which is described in the April edition of the NARFE Magazine. The objectives are to counter misinformation about the pay and benefits of federal employees and to clarify the many contributions made by the Federal Community to the smooth and safe running of the country, both of which are often not recognized by the general public or by some politicians. This campaign will extend down to chapters, with members requested to contribute examples from their careers which can illustrate our contributions.

Three hundred members from across the country attended a Legislative Conference in Arlington, VA, recently where we were brought up to date on the threats facing us and the evidence to use in our defense. On the last day we visited our Senator's and Representative's Offices, many of whom had contributed to the Conference, speaking in defense of the Federal Community. We look forward to sharing the results of our campaign with them, so that we do all we can to help them defend our interests.

STATE LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Dave Roseman, MD PAC Chair and MD Fed Budget Officer



The Maryland State Legislature has yet to come to grips with the financial problems of the State. Governor O'Malley submitted a budget that relied heavily on borrowed funds and increased fees. At this time it looks like the fees will be raised and borrowing increased but the critical issues facing the State will either be put off until next year or will be dealt with in a special session. In the meantime the legislature is spending a great deal of time on issues that do not have price tags attached. These have ranged from the controversial same sex marriage bill to a bill to allow patrons of outdoor restaurants to bring their dogs along with them. Again, anything is possible with our State Legislature and everyone needs to stay vigilant and make their opinion known to their legislative representatives. The State Legislative Committee continues to be vigilant and is making every effort to advance the NARFE agenda.

The Chapter is now planning its annual legislative forum for April 26th. On that day we will be having a lunch starting at 11:30a.m. followed by our Chapter meeting at 1p.m. State Senators and Delegates from our chapters have been invited and we hope for a good turnout of both legislators and members. It will be very interesting to hear their assessment of the year's session and their opinions as to what still needs to be done. We look forward to seeing as many of our members as possible at the Legislative Forum. Come armed with questions you would like answered during the Questions and Answers portion of the forum.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Larry Lange, Treasurer

All Funds Summary, March 17, 2011

Checking Account	\$11,445.51
Certificate of Deposit (Restricted Chapter Life Membership funds)	\$2,977.04
TOTAL CHAPTER ASSETS	\$14,422.55
Working Capital	\$11,445.51

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

*Jim Short,
Membership Chairman*



For the month of February we added three new members, seven members were reinstated, and two members were transferred from other chapters, but we lost nineteen members, including two who transferred to other chapters. As a result our chapter realized a net loss of seven members.

Please welcome the following new members: Trina Anglin • Barry Marcus • Chelton Jenkins.

Please welcome back the following reinstated members: Carl Adema • David Grossman • George LaMaze • David Moss • Ray Naudi • Honey Rosen • Peggy Wagner.

The following transferees should be made most welcome: Richard Bauer • Beverly Johnson

The following members were dropped for non-payment of dues as of November 1. If you know any of these people, please give them a call and try to convince them that they should renew their memberships. Remember they have a year to be reinstated. Also encourage dues withholding.

Joan Abell • Pushparajan Arokiaswamy • David Biss • Michael Crowley • John Donahue • Catherine Dwyer • Delia Emmerich • J. Gollner • Amy Jean Heim-Ayers • Shou-Nein Hou • Nancy Marinos • Uldis Potapovs • Lewis Rydzewski • Dorothy Snyder • Joseph Vadus • Miguel Valero • Maureen Wood.

Winter is over. Spring forward and recruit a new member, but, more important, try to encourage lapsed members to reinstate. Don't forget to promote dues withholding.

THANKS TO THE 581 MARCH NEWSLETTER ASSEMBLY PARTY

Thanks to our faithful members who gather to make the 581 Newsletter ready for mailing. Sorry we don't always have space to thank you individually each month; your efforts are always very, **very** much appreciated. Last month, we had thirteen Party Makers. They are:

<i>John Albers</i>	<i>Ronnie van Alstyne</i>
<i>Judy Bernstein</i>	<i>Tina McDonald-Bennett</i>
<i>Tom Kitchens</i>	<i>Larry Lange</i>
<i>John Nolan</i>	<i>John Padan</i>
<i>Marty Piper</i>	<i>Mary Anne Scott</i>
<i>Jim Short</i>	<i>Keith Steele</i>
<i>Meredith Williams</i>	

Come join the party! See the "upcoming events" on the front page for the date. We start at 9:30 a.m. and usually finish before 11:00 a.m.

And many thanks to our extremely diligent proof-readers on whom we depend to make this Newsletter what it is!

GAITHERSBURG CHAPTER ELECTIONS COMING UP IN MAY - VOLUNTEERS TO RUN FOR OFFICE STILL NEEDED

So far very few members have responded to the request by the Nominations Committee for members willing to serve as chapter officers for the next two years. If you have the time and energy and are interested in helping the local NARFE chapter, please let the Nomination's Committee know now. The new two-year term runs from July 1 of this year to June 30, 2013.

We are especially interested in younger members coming forward to step up and replace those who have been doing the work for many years already. The next term's two vice-presidents will both be assisting the chapter president and this will be a good way to learn chapter business, work up to president and then perhaps to a federation role. Help us fill those slots as well as much needed backups for the newsletter editors, treasurer, membership officer, and legislative officers. And we also need a NARFE PAC representative.

If you can help in any way, please call or email a member of the nominating committee:

Larry Lange 301-972-6775 Marty Piper 301-299-6519
Llange3751@aol.com

John Padan 301-869-0616 Dave Roseman 240-401-6628
jpadan@comcast.net dave.roseman@comcast.net

ENTERING THE FUTURE!

Tom Kitchens, Newsletter Editor

An interesting event has occurred. Two of the better-known Presidents of Maryland NARFE Chapters, Gordon Brown and Jennifer Ramsey, have requested that we send our newsletter to them over the Internet—they no longer want a paper copy! We did not expect this to happen – but it does make sense (and cents!) We are happy to comply, because we know this will reduce the paper clutter in their homes and save us many cents because we will not have to print, assemble, and pay to post the paper copies to them! Furthermore, they will receive their electronic copies, which are easy to store, access, and share – removing the problems of finding the paper copies or storing them!

If you are interested in receiving an electronic copy, or notification of electronic availability on our web site, of the current Newsletter, please send your email address to tak.narfe@verizon.net.

We are now forming an *Information Technology Team* to help implement our plans to streamline our communications so we will have more rapid contact with our membership. Please let us know if you are interested in joining our team. You can contact me at tak.narfe@verizon.net.

IN MEMORIAM

Charley Saylor (1931-2011)



Charley Saylor was elected National Treasurer at NARFE's 31st Biennial National Convention August 29-September 2, 2010. He had served in a number of NARFE chapter, federation and regional positions, and was regional vice president of Region II prior to his election. NARFE has lost a strong advocate for those in the Federal civilian service community and a leader who was also a good friend to his Maryland and other NARFE colleagues. He will be sorely missed. (See **NEB....** on page 5 for details.)

NARFE PAC

*Jim Cowie, MDFed Federal Legislative Committee
Coordinator for District 4 and more*

The March edition of the NARFE Magazine highlighted the need for contributions to NARFE PAC, which is a political action fund financed exclusively by donations from individual NARFE members. The proceeds go, in the form of contributions up to \$5,000.00, to deserving Representatives and Senators who have made themselves accessible to us and who have consistently supported our causes and defended our interests. NARFE may also contribute to a candidate in a close election who is markedly more sympathetic to our concerns than the opponent.

Members are encouraged to donate using a form printed in the NARFE Magazine or at a NARFE event, such as a Membership Meeting or Federation Convention. Donations of \$20, or more, entitle the donor to request a NARFE PAC pin which can be worn with pride.

In the 2009-2010 cycle donations of over \$1,300,000.00 were made by NARFE members nationwide, with our District II as the highest contributor, led by the Maryland Federation. We hope that we will repeat this leadership role by our members being equally generous during the 2011-2012 cycle.

Our March 50/50 Winners

To the Chapter 581 Treasury		\$26.00
First place	Jim Short	\$12.00
Second place	Thelma Fletcher	\$ 8.00
Third place	Donnie Sue Ferrell	<u>\$ 6.00</u>
Total		<u>\$52.00</u>

RETENTION REPORT

*Dick Strombotne, Membership Retention Committee Chair
DickS.narfe@comcast.net, Phone 240.632.9881*

Maryland NARFE has undertaken three activities to increase membership retention. Last November, Maryland NARFE sent 473 personalized letters to a group of lapsed Members. It informed them that they could save money by rejoining before January 1, 2011, when the new dues increase would take effect. By the end of February, 42 of these lapsed members had re-joined for a total of 70 membership years, a very good success rate. This mailing cost Maryland NARFE about \$525; it returned revenues of almost \$1,850 in national dues and about \$250 in chapter dues. The Federation will recover the cost of the mailing in about three years.

Early in February, Maryland NARFE put its new Dues Withholding Incentive Program (DWIP) into effect with the first of a series of monthly mailings to groups of recent members whose memberships are about to expire. The personalized letters offer recipients a rebate of \$5.00 if they sign up for dues withholding when they rejoin. The rebate is in addition to the 15 percent discount they receive on national dues by going on dues withholding. With the automatic deduction of dues from annuity payments, Gaithersburg chapter members will pay \$3.50 per month to cover both annual chapter dues and the discounted national dues of \$34.00. Members can sign up for dues withholding at any time by using the form in NARFE magazine (January issue, page 49) or from the NARFE web site, www.narfe.org. It will go into effect at the end of their current membership term. Once they have signed up they will never again receive a dues notice.

Also in February, Maryland NARFE started sending personalized letters to lapsed members whose membership expired about nine months earlier. These letters invited them to rejoin and provided application forms for reinstatement and for dues withholding. Similar letters to lapsed members will go out each month in a pilot program to see how effective this approach is.

Early results from the two monthly mailings will be available at the Biennial Convention on May 2-3, 2011.

4 Frankin Press — and Big Frankie!

NEB MEETING IN MARCH

Dick Strombotne, MD Federation Treasurer

On March 2 and 3, 2011, I attended the meeting of the National Executive Board (NEB) as an observer. It was held at the Crystal City Hyatt in Arlington, VA. The members made a number of major decisions and some lesser ones that are described in this report, along with comments and updates.

Note that all of the members of the NEB attended both days I was there, with the sole exception of National Treasurer Charley Saylor. Pres. Joe Beaudoin reported he was in the hospital undergoing tests. [As we know by now, our friend and long time NARFE leader Charley Saylor died on Monday, March 7, 2011.]

Financial matters

President Joe Beaudoin reported that NARFE's finances at HQ are running in the red and probably will be until next October. It will take time to remedy NARFE's finances from the increased revenues resulting from the increase in National dues that was fully implemented on March 1.

The NEB decided to hold NARFE's first general fundraising campaign to pay for its aggressive actions to oppose the ongoing attacks on the earned retirement benefits of active and retired federal employees. See the paragraph below on "Legislative matters." The fundraising campaign will start as soon as possible.

After hearing a report from two members of the NARFE Information Tech Advisory Committee (NIAC) about the obsolete nature of NARFE computing equipment, the NEB decided to begin replacing equipment as funds permit, following the NIAC's recommendations. Maryland NARFE's Pat Dempsey was one of the two NIAC members.

The NEB decided to allocate the 10-percent rebates from \$40 National dues of members of the new eNARFE national chapter to federations according to the Zip Codes of the new members. There are no chapter dues for eNARFE members. The eNARFE chapter is all electronic; it has been established under the NEB's authority to offer incentives for membership recruitment and retention. See the report on eNARFE below for more information.

Membership matters

NARFE HQ is mounting three recruitment by mail campaigns during March. The first is the semi-annual mailing to the OPM blind mailing list of recent

(NEB Continued in page 6.)

NARFE'S MONTGOMERY COUNTY AREA COUNCIL (MCAC) IS PLANNING A LATE JULY EVENT FOR ACTIVE FEDERAL EMPLOYEES (AFE'S)

Larry Lange, MCAC Coordinator

The MCAC is comprised of the presidents of the eight Montgomery County NARFE chapters; its purpose is to promote coordination among these chapters. The Council is planning a late July, evening meeting for AFE's (active, or still working, federal employees). An evening meeting will be tried this year, since our spring Saturday morning events for AFE's the last two years have not been well attended. We will have the event at the Village at Rockville (formerly the National Lutheran Home); the Village at Rockville has a very attractive social hall, and also has very reasonable prices for snack foods they would be able to provide for this event. Instead of our format in past years of having three speakers, we may invite one person from NARFE's national office to be our speaker at this informal "meet and greet" gathering. We're looking into a postcard mailing to the AFE's in Montgomery Country informing them of this meeting to be mailed approximately the second week of July. The Council will meet again on April 13th to continue planning for this late July event.

NARFE CHAPTER 581 Luncheon

**TUESDAY, April 26, 2011 - 12:00 noon
Rooms A & B, Rosborough Center**

Name _____

Phone (____)____-_____

No. of Diners ____ @ \$20.00 each = \$ _____.00

This will be a *delicious* buffet luncheon!
Please make your check payable to NARFE Chapter 581 and mail no later than April 18 to:

Mr. Larry Lange
11210 White Barn Court
Gaithersburg, MD 20879-3146

I must receive your reservation and check no later than Wednesday, April 20th!

NEB (continued.)

employee and survivor annuitants; it will go to some 40,000 recent annuitants. This is the single most important source of new members for NARFE. The second is a mailing to some 50,000 names on a mailing list rented from Government Executive magazine. The third is a one-time mailing to approximately 20,000 dropped members whose membership lapsed in 2009 for non-payment of dues. The mailings will offer membership in **eNARFE** where it is appropriate, presumably in the first and second mailings.

NARFE's new electronic chapter, Chapter 2363, also being described as **eNARFE**, is in the process of being formulated but a number of decisions have already been made about it. Members will receive NARFE magazine but no other paper. All other communications will be made by email, including GEMS messages, and other electronic media. A blog will be established for this chapter so that members can exchange ideas on NARFE issues. [This may be a pilot for a blog to be used by all NARFE members who have internet access.] Voting procedures for members of this chapter is one of the issues to be addressed at the NEB meeting in July. Members can learn more about **eNARFE** from the web site www.narfe.org. It is also discussed in the April issue of NARFE magazine.

This chapter has no dues and members pay only \$40 instead of the \$45 paid by other new members. Some members of the NEB were concerned that most of the new members would choose to be **eNARFE** members instead of members of "traditional NARFE" and that current chapter members would transfer to **eNARFE** to avoid paying chapter dues. A motion was made, seconded, discussed, and approved to permit only new members to join **eNARFE**; however as this policy violates the Bylaws provision that any member may join any chapter it was subsequently voided.

The first concern, that new members would opt to go into **eNARFE** instead of "traditional NARFE," with its chapter structure, was left unaddressed. In 2010, Maryland NARFE chapters received 600 new members from the OPM mailings. In 2011 and 2012 a similar number of new members would bring in about \$10,000 in revenues to chapters. If most of those new members choose to be **eNARFE** members the current chapters would not receive that increased revenue. More importantly, they would not receive the influx of

new members needed to keep chapters in operation in the long run.

Legislative matters

Protecting America's Heartbeat is the theme for the NARFE campaign to fight back against the unprecedented attacks on federal workers' benefits and pay by some members of Congress and in the media. NARFE has engaged the services of M+R Strategic Services in this fight. NARFE HQ is putting into action plans to engage our members to inform their members of Congress about our legislative goals. NARFE magazine will have specific information in the months ahead for all members and GEMS messages are providing timely news to the 55,000 NARFE members who receive them. M+R Strategic Services was able to give specific information about the nature of the threat to the 275 NARFE leaders who attended the National Legislative Training Conference in the days following the NEB meeting. For more information and to find out what you need to know and what actions to take, go to the web site www.ProtectAmericasHeartbeat.com.

Important Reminder for Chapter Treasurers

This year, May 16 is the deadline for filing IRS Form 990-N (e-Postcard) for small exempt organizations with gross income less than \$25,000 and whose tax year is the calendar year. Copy this link and paste it into the address line of your browser for further information:

<http://www.irs.gov/charities/article/0,,id=169250.00.html>

CALL MARTY!

Do you know of a member who is seriously ill, has passed away, or is celebrating a special occasion? Please call Marty Strombotne, Sunshine Chairman, at 240-632-9881.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ...

Is there something on your mind you'd like to share? Do you have something to share with your fellow NARFE members? Do you have a comment about an article published in this newsletter? Is there some issue you would like to address that would be of interest to NARFE members? Please send your submissions or inquiries to tak.narfe@verizon.net or llange3751@aol.com. Inclusion will be on a space available basis.



A Great March Program

Dr. Rusty Russell, Herbarium Manager, National Museum of Natural History, spoke at our March meeting with a strong advocacy for the significance of a historical event in U.S. history that has not been given the recognition it deserves — the U.S. Exploring Expedition of 1838-1842, also known as the Wilkes Expedition, in honor of its commanding officer. Dr. Russell’s presentation was both entertaining and educational. His slides contained a number of examples of the actual plants collected over the four years of the expedition, as well as correspondence and drawings from the expedition. He pointed out such little known facts as it was this expedition that is credited with the discovery that Antarctica is a continent.

Bylaws Approved

The Executive Board spent over a year analyzing, discussing, debating, and revising the chapter bylaws to produce a less prescriptive document that has added flexibility in chapter operations. The revision was published in last month’s newsletter and copies were available at the March meeting. After presentation and discussion, the bylaws were approved unanimously by the members present.

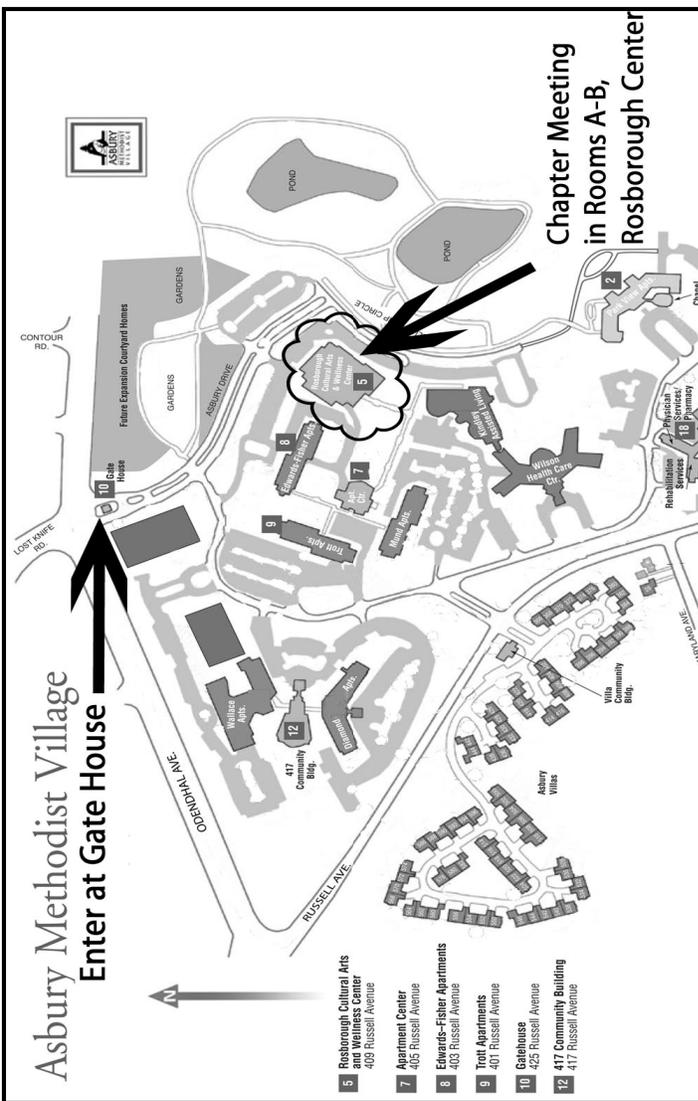
MARK YOUR CALENDERS! THE ANNUAL PICNIC IS JUNE 14th

As always, there will be great food, great entertainment and great friends. Plan on attending. The Picnic will be at Bohrer Park in Gaithersburg from 12 noon till 3:00 p.m. More details will be in the May Newsletter.

FOR OUR MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Enter Asbury Methodist Village in Gaithersburg at the intersection of Odendhal and Lost Knife Roads by the Gate House. Continue straight at the four-way stop on Asbury Drive. The building on your right as the road curves is the Rosborough Cultural Arts and Wellness Center (Bldg. 5 on the map below). The meetings are held in Rooms A-B, directly across from the indoor pool. You can also ask for directions at the Asbury Gate House.

NOTE: This is a change in location from 2010. All meetings will be in the Rosborough Center in 2011.



**Gaithersburg
Chapter 581**

12913 Summit Ridge Ter.
Germantown, MD 20874

National Active and Retired Federal Employees
Chapter 581 Gaithersburg - Chartered December, 1956

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