



National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association  
**Gaithersburg Chapter 581**

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

**FEBRUARY 2012**

**Our Next Membership Meeting:**

Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m.,  
Rooms A-B, **Rosborough Center**,  
Asbury Methodist Village

**PLEASE NOTE THIS AND OTHER  
DATE AND TIME CHANGES AS  
REPORTED IN LAST MONTH'S  
NEWSLETTER**

**Other Upcoming Events**

February 23<sup>rd</sup> (Thursday)  
**Chapter 581 Board Meeting**  
**Conley Hall, Trott Building**  
**10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon**

February 28<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday)  
**Chapter Meeting at 9:00 a.m.**  
Rooms A-B, **Rosborough Center**,  
Asbury Methodist Village

February 29<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)  
**Deadline for March**  
**newsletter articles**

March 8<sup>st</sup> (Thursday)  
**Newsletter Assembly**  
**Edwards-Fisher Building**  
**9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

March 22<sup>nd</sup> (Thursday)  
**Chapter 581 Board Meeting**  
**Conley Hall, Trott Building**  
**10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon**

March 27<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday)  
**Chapter Meeting at 9:00 a.m.**  
Rooms A-B, **Rosborough Center**,  
Asbury Methodist Village

March 28<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)  
**Deadline for April**  
**newsletter articles**

April 30<sup>th</sup> - May 1<sup>st</sup> (Monday)  
**MD Federation Mini Convention**  
**Comfort Inn, Bowie, MD**  
(Chapter 581 will cover \$20 of member's  
registration)

*Please put these dates on your calendar*

**Ted Jensen, the NARFE Maryland Federation President, will  
speak at our February Chapter Membership Meeting**

Ted is the former President of NARFE's Frederick, MD Chapter 409, and has been MD Federation President for three years. This is an excellent opportunity for our chapter members to not only meet Ted, but to get a flavor of the important business that is conducted by NARFE on the state level. Please plan to attend our next chapter membership meeting on Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. in Rooms A & B of the Rosborough on the Asbury Methodist Village campus.

**PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE...Larry Lange and John Padan**

We are starting off the month of February with some very important date and time changes for many of our upcoming Chapter 581 meetings. Because of an administrative "glitch" between the Asbury administration and their scheduling office, we will have our Chapter membership meetings, in February and March, in Rooms A & B in the Rosborough Center of the Asbury Methodist Village, as we have been having them for the last year – **BUT – starting at 9:00 a.m.** instead of 10:00 a.m. In April our monthly Chapter meeting will be our annual MD State Legislators Forum, as usual, which is preceded by a luncheon. This will NOT be in the Rosborough Center; Rocky Jones has just about finished making the final details for both the April luncheon and the location for the forum – our March Chapter 581 newsletter will have the final details of where we will be meeting for the luncheon and the forum, and will also have the usual "coupon" for members wishing to attend the luncheon to mail in to make their reservation for this event. So – please watch your upcoming Chapter 581 newsletters for dates and times for all our meetings.

Many thanks to Helen Berkson (Chapter member, Chapter Service Officer, and CPA) for making her "tax tips" presentation at our January Chapter membership meeting (she has done this presentation each January for the last several years). Helen had a serious health issue to address in early January, and we were not sure if she was going to be able to be our speaker at the January 24<sup>th</sup> meeting or not (she even had a last-minute substitute lined up if need be). Fortunately, she is much better, and was able to be our speaker at that meeting; additionally, at the last minute, we had to hold our January Chapter membership meeting back in our former location in Parker Hall (that change was for January only).

Our former members, Mary Anne Scott and Tom Kitchens, are settling into their new home in Tullahoma, TN. Tom was the former co-editor of our Chapter 581 newsletter, and his wife Mary Anne Scott (former Chapter 581 president) was extremely helpful in contributing pictures to the newsletter, and many "behind the scenes" duties to make sure the newsletter was the best it could be. Again, many kudos to them – and kudos to Judy Bernstein for volunteering to electronically assemble the articles for each month's newsletter.

**President's Message** (Continued on Page 3.)

**FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

*Jim Cowie, MD Fed Fed. Legislative Committee Chairman, Deferred Annuity Coordinator, and More*



Late last year Congress finally agreed on a temporary measure which continued, for two months, a payroll tax holiday plus assistance to the unemployed and for payment to doctors. The House had passed a bill for the whole year which called for two thirds of the annual cost (\$65 billion) to be paid for by federal employees and retirees. This was not acceptable to the Senate so the arrangements for the rest of the current year will be decided by a joint House and Senate Committee (the members include Senator Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen). NARFE President Beaudoin is requesting members to lobby against the House proposal, especially on February 15<sup>th</sup> which NARFE is designating as "Call Congress Day." The message you should send and the contact information is given in the latest "Protect America's Heartbeat" (PAH) documentation which was discussed and distributed by Roger Dahlman at the January Chapter Meeting.

If you have an interest in Legislation and in defending your benefits and think you might consider contributing more than has been expected to date if the opportunity was available, then I would refer you to my article in last month's 581 newsletter which outlined three possibilities being considered by the MD Federation. One of these was to develop the knowledge to become like a newspaper correspondent, focusing on some area of policy and promoting a better understanding of the overlap of interest between NARFE and the policy area, such as Economic Development or Environment or Education. The purpose of this activity would be to try to improve the understanding of involved citizens about Federal contributions to their area of special interest, and thus to encourage more support for the federal role. If you would like to explore this further, without any advance commitment, then please get in touch with me for more details about what this might entail.

Due to redistricting, which takes effect in April, a number of 581 members will be transferred from Districts 4 and 8 to District 6 which is expected to be the most competitive of all the eight Districts in Maryland. What this means is that previously affected members could vote according to their preferred political philosophy without this being very significant for the election results. However, our voters will now need to consider more carefully how important their federal benefits are to their welfare and, if this has high priority, to pay careful attention to the views of the candidates, and their parties, on the treatment of federal employees and retirees, before casting their votes.

**STATE LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

*Dave Roseman, MD PAC Chair and MD Fed Budget Officer*



The Maryland Assembly is now in session and the Governor has submitted his budget. In brief it calls for higher income taxes by reducing deductions and personal exemptions, county sharing the payment of teacher pensions, a doubling of the flush tax, other increases in an assortment of fees. It also includes a revised push for the Governors wind energy bill. It is also expected that the Governor will also propose an increase in the gas tax. He has also submitted his same sex marriage bill. Democrats and Republicans agree that the vote on this will be close and that if it passes it will end up going to a referendum in the next election. As good citizens it is your responsibility to be aware of what your State Legislature is doing and let your representatives know what your feelings are concerning this legislation. **The State Legislative Committee has been working hard and as a result Senator Kathy Klausmeier has submitted SB-35 on Long Term Care.** The bill would provide a \$200 per year tax credit against the annual cost of long term care insurance policies that are purchased after 2012.. We all need to support this bill that impacts seniors and non-seniors alike. It will save money for the state as well as state residents. It's a win-win! Please call or write your legislators and ask for their support of this bill. A companion House Bill will be submitted shortly.

In addition, the SLC is working on getting a bill to equalize the tax exemption for seniors submitted again this year. This bill would raise in steps the special exemption for the blind and anyone over 65 to the same amount as their normal individual deduction. It would thus equalize the exemption a child or other qualified individual can take that is providing more than half the support to a senior for the senior themselves. It is in our opinion important to keep this bill before our legislators.

Again, don't forget to contribute to Maryland-NARFE PAC. It is our best way of getting important access to our State representatives.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

*Larry Lange, Treasurer*

**All Funds Summary, January 19, 2012**

Checking Account	\$11,438.50
Certificate of Deposit (Restricted	
Chapter Life Membership funds)	\$2,794.93
<b>TOTAL CHAPTER ASSETS</b>	<b><u>\$14,233.43</u></b>
<b>Working Capital</b>	<b>\$11,438.50</b>

**MEMBERSHIP NOTES**

*Jim Short,  
Membership Chairman*



For the months of November and December we gained 24 new members and eight members were reinstated.

During this period of time we lost 29 members, including six member who transferred to other chapters, for a net gain of three members.

**Please welcome the following new members:** Irving Garfinkle • Carol Granger • Anna Hamann • Robert McDonald • Eugene Oliver • Ladorothy Pittman • Randi Robinson • Mario Cellarosi • Thomas Lee • Sofia Proctor • Edward Reynolds • Andre Bouville • Maria Bukowski • Lois Donlin • Mark Dubnik • Richard McBryde • Mary Haines • Donald Hoffman • Linda Maratinez • Kamie Peterson • Ghanshyam Gupta • Martha Staten • Allen Federline • Nancy Hitchcock.

**Please welcome back the following reinstated members:** Joan Harris • Dorothy Mellott • Sheila Gaines • Robert Kolbe • Marjorie Tarmey • William Damaska • Jeremy Schwartz • Cecily Holiday.

**The following person whose spouse’s membership has been transferred to her should be made most welcome:** Charlotte Lantz.

**We are sad to report the following deaths:** Edward Lantz • Marvin Gettner • John T. Young.

**The following members were dropped for non-payment of dues as of August 1 and September 1:** Marcelo Amar • Richard Andrews • Bruce Cohen Rafael Font • Deborah Galvin • Carol Gannon • Alvin McCoy • Jane Parham • Esteban Soto • Margaret Winkle • Barbara Anderson • Andrew Fishel • Brenda Gladden • Norman Glick • Anne Gruffey-Lewis • David Levine • Marc Lewis • Donna Randolph • Pearl Rutstein.

If you know any of these people, please give them a call and try to convince them that they should renew their memberships, and encourage dues withholding.

**How many new members have you recruited so far this year? How many members have you convinced to reinstate their membership this year? Remember that the chapter gets \$2 for each new member and the more members we have, the better we can pursue our goals.**

**President’s Message** (Continued from page 1.)

Tom will be available via phone and the Internet to help us all out on the monthly newsletter.

As our members know (from reading both the monthly *NARFE* magazine and our Chapter 581 newsletters), the plans to attack our earned retirement benefits, and to change the earned benefits of CFE’s (“current federal employees”) are still not only very present, but as threatening (or more so) as ever. If you have not signed up for GEMS (NARFE’s “global electronic messaging system”), and you have a home computer, please consider doing this – it will keep you up to date on NARFE’s efforts to protect your earned benefits. And we hope you’ll participate in the February 15<sup>th</sup> “call in day” to Congress.

**MANY MANY THANKS TO THE PERSONS WHO HELPED WITH OUR CHAPTER NEWSLETTER ASSEMBLY JANUARY 5<sup>TH</sup>**

There were 15 members who helped fold, wafer seal, and affix address labels to our January newsletter; as always, thanks very much – we couldn’t have done it without you! They were:

- |                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Judy Bernstein    | Roger Dahlman      |
| John Padan        | Ronnie Van Alstyne |
| Larry Lange       | Marty Piper        |
| Eleanor Williams  | Meredith Williams  |
| Charles Garfinkel | Jim Short          |
| Keith Steele      | Genevieve Steele   |
| Dick Strombotne   | John Nolan         |
| George Donovan    |                    |

And many thanks to our very diligent proof-readers.

**CALL MARTY STROMBOTNE!**

Do you know of a member who is ill, passed away, or is celebrating a special occasion? Please tell our Sunshine Chairman, Marty Strombotne, about it. Call her at 240-632-9881.

Our 50/50 Winners at the January 24 <sup>nd</sup> Chapter Meeting	
To the Chapter 581 Treasury	\$ 24.00
First place Roger Dahlman	\$ 10.00
Second place Roy Buyer	\$ 7.00
Third place Jim Short	\$ 6.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$ 47.00</b>

## DUES WITHHOLDING IS EASY

*Dick Strombotne, Chair, Membership Retention Committee, Maryland NARFE*

If you are a retiree or survivor annuitant, dues withholding is an easy way to pay your membership dues AND you **save \$6.00 per year** on national dues. After you sign up for dues withholding, you will **never** get another dues notice, you will **never again** have to write and mail a check for dues, and your membership in NARFE will **never lapse**. You can sign up anytime. The monthly deduction of \$3.50 from your annuity will start in two or three months or when your current membership expires, whichever come later. Sign up using the application form in a recent issue of NARFE magazine or download a form from [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org).

## DO YOUR FRIENDS A FAVOR - HELP THEM JOIN NARFE!

*Dick Strombotne, Federation Treasurer*  
[DickS.narfe@comcast.net](mailto:DickS.narfe@comcast.net)

Do you have friends, colleagues, family members, or neighbors who are eligible to join NARFE? Someone who is a current or retired federal employee or the spouse of one?

It is easy to help someone join NARFE. Give them an application form from NARFE magazine, or direct them to the NARFE web site [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org) or they can also join by calling 1-800-627-3374 (NARFE Membership Services) with a major credit card. Any of these methods will work. If you need additional information or membership application forms, contact our Membership Chair Jim Short at 301-330-5084 or [J.J.Short@comcast.net](mailto:J.J.Short@comcast.net).

## DON'T MISS A SINGLE ISSUE OF OUR NEWSLETTER

When you move, please let us know. We don't want to lose track of you and we don't want you to miss the information we share with our members. A note, an email, or a phone call to the president or membership chair works. Also, if you plan to temporarily be away from your permanent residence, please let us know. *The US Post Office will not forward our NARFE Chapter newsletter to you.* We mail under a bulk rate permit (which is substantially less than first class) and that can't be forwarded. However, they will charge us

*(Continued on the next page bottom left side.)*

## TOOLKIT FOR "PROTECT AMERICA'S HEARTBEAT"

*Roger Dahlman, Ch581 Capt. "Protect America's Heartbeat"*

An interesting and valuable resource document was distributed at Maryland's Federation Training Seminar November 1st at Bowie. The Toolkit is an important source of information for Protecting America's Heartbeat; it includes talking points, fact sheets and materials on advocacy and media communications. Printed copies of the Training Seminar Toolkit were available at the Chapter's January meeting.

The Toolkit also contains specific recommendations that the Super Committee was considering for cutting pay and benefits of federal employees and retirees. Although the Super Committee was not successful in its mission, it is quite likely that the 11 explicit recommendations it considered will continue to influence subsequent Congressional proceedings, which NARFE HQ will probably closely monitor.

The recently updated electronic version of the Toolkit on Protecting America's Heartbeat can also be found on the NARFE HQ website: <http://www.narfe.org/heartbeat/resources.cfm>. To access a .pdf file of the Toolkit you will need to enter your name and membership ID as it appears in your NARFE magazine address block. The document is relatively large (48 pages, 2.4 MB). Judy Bernstein put the Toolkit electronic version on the Chapter website: [www.mdnarfe.org/chapter0581](http://www.mdnarfe.org/chapter0581)

**REMINDER:** *We need your stories about how your federal service Protected America's Heartbeat.* When drafting your story, you may wish to refer to the general guidelines in my article on Protecting America's Heartbeat in the September Chapter Newsletter. If you need help or have questions feel free to contact me at [rcdahlman@verizon.net](mailto:rcdahlman@verizon.net). Thanks.

## 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](mailto:tak.narfe@verizon.net) or [llange3751@aol.com](mailto:llange3751@aol.com). Inclusion will be on a space available basis.

## NARFE CHAPTER 581 SELECTS A NOMINEE TO THE MARYLAND SENIOR CITIZENS HALL OF FAME

Each year our Chapter 581 selects a nominee (or nominees in the case of a husband and wife who are both nominated) for induction into the Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame (MSCHF). As stated in the booklet given to all attendees at the annual fall MSCHF awards luncheon, “A group of distinguished citizens of varying ages, including senior activists, gathered on September 18, 1987, to promote the founding of a Hall of Fame dedicated to honoring senior citizens of the State of Maryland who have made exemplary contributions to society. Those selected by a special panel of judges would be inducted into the Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame and have their names inscribed in the Archives of the Hall of Fame.” The persons who have been nominated by our Chapter in the past, and who have been inducted into MSCHF, are:

Year	Inductee(s)
2000	Clyde Ludwig
2001	Charles Ferrell
2002	Henry Herman
2003	Marshall Grotenhuis
2004	Delbert and Bernie Foster
2005	Annabel Liebelt
2006	Keith and Genevieve Steele
2007	Frank and Jean Young
2008	Martin and Doris Wish
2009	Rocky and Ken Jones
2010	Dick Strombotne
2011	Marty Piper

This year our Chapter is pleased to nominate Larry Lange for induction into MSCHF. Ken and Rocky Jones will be working with Larry to complete the forms required to nominate him to MSCHF.

(Continued from Bottom of Previous page.)

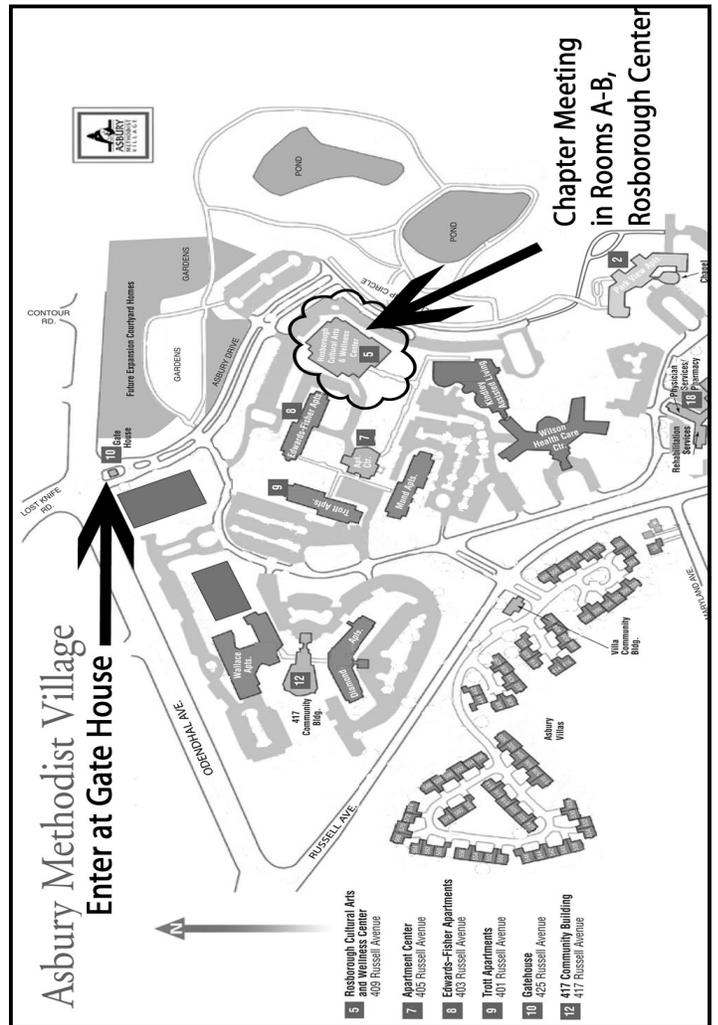
the cost of a first class letter to return the newsletter to us with a sticker including your new address. Consequently, any returned newsletter has cost the chapter \$0.61 in mail charges.

When you notify the Post Office that you will be away temporarily, please let us know at the same time. You can call NARFE Headquarters (Membership Department, 1-800-456-8410). This also works when you change your residence permanently. When you return to your permanent residence, you will need to notify NARFE Headquarters again.

## 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 through 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. You can also ask for directions at the Asbury Gate House.

**NOTE:** *The meetings are now in the Rosborough Center.*



## INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

**Please Note:** If there is snow or inclement weather on the day of our monthly Membership meeting, we follow the decision made by Montgomery County Schools: *If Montgomery County Schools will be closed or have a delayed opening due to inclement weather on the day of our monthly Membership meeting, the meeting will be canceled.* This information is available very early on the day of our meeting on radio & TV news, and at the website for Montgomery County Schools:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org>

**Gaithersburg  
Chapter 581**  
19333 Dunbridge Way  
Montgomery Village, MD  
20886

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

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**Three important Websites**

[www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org)  
[www.mdnarfe.org](http://www.mdnarfe.org)  
[www.mdnarfe.org/chapter0581](http://www.mdnarfe.org/chapter0581)



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**Our Website**

[www.mdnarfe.org/chapter0581](http://www.mdnarfe.org/chapter0581)