



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

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

**March 2011**

**Our Next Membership Meeting:**

*Mar 22 at 10:00 a.m., Rooms A-B, Rosborough Center, Asbury Center, Asbury Methodist Village. "U.S. Exploring Expedition of 1838-42," Rusty Russell, Manager of the Herbarium, National Museum of Natural History*

**Other Upcoming Events**

*March 9 (Wednesday)*

**United Seniors of Maryland 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Legislative Rally** (see [www.unitedseniors.net](http://www.unitedseniors.net) for info)  
**Annapolis, Maryland**

*March 17 (Thursday)*

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

*March 23 (Wednesday)*

**Newsletter Deadline**

*March 31 (Thursday)*

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

*April 21 (Thursday)*

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

*April 26 (Tuesday)*

**Chapter Meeting: Luncheon and Annual Legislative Forum  
Rooms A-B Rosborough Center**

*May 2-3 (Monday - Tuesday)*

**Maryland Federation Convention  
Comfort Inn, Bowie, Maryland**

*Put these dates on your calendar*

**A VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY FOR A YOUNG NATION**

What do you know about the United States South Seas Exploring Expedition of 1838-1842? Did you know that it was one of the largest voyages of discovery in the history of western exploration and that the thousands of specimens and artifacts collected by its scientists formed the foundation for the collections of the Smithsonian Institution? Rusty Russell, Herbarium Manager at the National Museum of Natural History, will be with us in March at our next meeting to discuss this expedition from the perspective of a botanist.

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

NARFE is facing a two-edged sword. One side presents serious threats to our earned benefits. A declining membership with the accompanying loss in effectiveness to defend against those threats is the other side. At the Maryland Federation Board meeting in February, we heard encouraging reports that our new leaders in NARFE Headquarters are strategizing and making progress in dealing with these problems. The slogan "Protect America's Heartbeat" is one element that will be used to frame the campaign to guard our benefits and counter misperceptions of federal workers.

What should you do? There are several things. If you haven't signed up for GEMS to get latest news, you should do so, then react to that news appropriately. (See [www.mdnarfe.org](http://www.mdnarfe.org) for instructions.) Encourage your co-workers to join NARFE. Attend chapter meetings. Volunteer to help our chapter in some capacity. The Nominating Committee is working to select a slate of new officers (see page 3). You may not want to be an officer, but they will also be discussing other non-elective positions that contribute to the operations of the chapter.

Another opportunity is coming up soon. **Join us and attend the Maryland Federation Convention in early May.** It's close this time — in Bowie at the Comfort Inn and Convention Center — a great opportunity to make it a day trip if you don't want to stay overnight at the hotel and attend the full convention. The chapter will reimburse you for cost of registration and banquet, if you chose to attend. We'll be hearing from a Headquarters representative on how we're doing on the challenge of keeping NARFE strong and how well the strategies for dealing with threats are working. It will be an excellent opportunity to meet members from other parts of the state, share information, and to have a good time as well. Involvement in NARFE activities can be very rewarding — you meet new people, you hear other viewpoints on issues, and you help keep the organization strong. If you'd like to attend and be a delegate, contact me (301-515-8984 or [mas.narfe@verizon.net](mailto:mas.narfe@verizon.net)). See page 6 for more details.

Don't forget to read the legislative reports on page 2 carefully. You need to stay on top of the many issues with the state budget and with the federal response focused on dealing with our current economic situation.

**FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

*Jim Cowie, Chair MD Fed Federal Legislative Committee Coordinator for District 4 and more*



Cuts in the Federal budget of \$61 billion for the remainder of the fiscal year were passed in the House (these cuts would have been \$100 billion if they had been applied to the full year), but will not be acceptable in the Senate or by the White House. Yet the House has some leverage because approved federal funds will soon run out and the debt ceiling reached. The House may not agree to corrective action without major cuts.

NARFE is concerned that some politicians and active members of the general public have succumbed to propaganda which paints the Federal Community in very unfavorable terms which are neither accurate nor fair. In addition, it appears that many of the general public have little or no understanding of the federal contributions that citizens depend on. This lack of understanding and misinformation of federal roles have helped motivate the extreme proposals that have been approved in the House.

The NARFE magazine (March 2011, p.38) reports on a campaign to try to counter these threats. (See [www.ProtectAmericasHeartbeat.org](http://www.ProtectAmericasHeartbeat.org).) This has two goals — to counter the misinformation about federal employees, and to explain the many contributions we make to the functioning and safety of America. NARFE has commissioned this activity with an external firm (M & R) so that it is promoted at arm's length from NARFE and to make it easier for it to be supported by other organizations which share our objectives.

As a result of the campaign, it is expected that more Representatives and citizens, who are more willing to be open minded about the contributions of the Federal Community, will become more sympathetic to our concerns and may oppose us being treated unfairly. However, active support for our cause is more likely to happen where a citizen faces losses from the overreach of the proposed cuts, for example, from reductions in Head Start or less opportunity to fund family members in college. If enough people object, it may become clear that the House claim that they had a mandate, to impose cuts to the extent of \$100 billion, did not in fact have the support of a clear majority of the electorate, any more than their claim of having a mandate to repeal health legislation, when polls say that public approval was evenly balanced.

**STATE LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

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



The State Legislature has been in session since mid-January and is moving at a relatively slow pace with respect to issues of concern to us as members of NARFE and as citizens concerned with the huge budget deficit. *The Washington Post* wrote on Monday February 21<sup>st</sup> that "O'Malley's legislative agenda - which friends and foes say appears geared toward burnishing his fiscal and environmental credentials for possible national ambitions - is drawing heavy criticism from unions as well as lawmakers in both parties." There are now bills to increase taxes on everything from alcohol to gasoline, as well as bills to shift or revise the formulas for sharing state revenue with the counties. Additionally there are bills dealing with social issues such as same-sex marriage, legalization of medical marijuana and in-state tuition breaks to undocumented immigrants.

Bills of specific interest to NARFE include Income Tax Credit for Long Term Care Insurance premiums, HB 562 and SB 618 and 703 with a senate hearing on 3/11 at 1PM in the Senate and Budget and Tax Committee; Corporate Income Tax Combined Reporting, SB 305 and HB 731 with a hearing on 3/10 at 1PM in the House Ways and Means Committee.

You as good citizens and members of the community need to let your delegates know how you feel about what is going on in Annapolis. Please call, write, or e-mail all of your representatives and ask them to support the bills of your choice. You can follow the action on the bills by reading the Metro Section of *The Washington Post* or going to the Maryland website (<http://mlis.state.md.us/>). **REMEMBER, IF YOU DON'T TELL YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVES HOW YOU WANT THEM TO VOTE, YOU CAN'T COMPLAIN WHEN THEY TAKE A POSITION CONTRARY TO YOURS. NOW IS THE TIME TO BE AN ACTIVE CITIZEN.**

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

*Larry Lange, Treasurer*

**All Funds Summary, February 17, 2011**

Checking Account	\$10,498.14
Certificate of Deposit (Restricted Chapter Life Membership funds)	\$2,976.95
<b>TOTAL CHAPTER ASSETS</b>	<b>\$13,475.09</b>
<b>Working Capital</b>	<b>\$10,498.14</b>

**MEMBERSHIP NOTES**

*Jim Short,  
Membership Chairman*



For the month of January we added seven new members, and eight members were reinstated, but we lost nine members. As a result our chapter realized a net gain of six members.

**Please welcome the following new members:** Joseph Watts • Patrick Carlin • Ahmad Wahed • Pamela Wong • Carol Yang • Sun-Ying Yeh • Mary Ellen Pickett.

**Please welcome back the following reinstated members:** Roger Burkhart • Nancy Byrd • Jeanette Cohen • Alfred Dinsenchacher • Joan Koenig • Barbara Kritzer • Bruce Leet • Pat Lombard.

The following members were dropped for non-payment of dues as of October 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.

Carl Adema • Lynn Bergquist • Karen Dawson • Max Evans • Edward Geldermann • Laura Koenig • Francis Krivda • Honey Rosen • Mary Whitmore.

**Please make an effort to invite a friend, colleague or former colleague to our March meeting, and offer them a ride if necessary.**

**NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE SEEKING CANDIDATES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROPOSED BYLAWS**

The Executive Board is anxious to enlist “new blood” into the Board by seeking VPs whose jobs it will be to assist the chapter president. The heavy lifting is pretty well taken care of by Board members, but additional persons will be sought to back up those people and learn specific jobs. If the Nominating Committee has not already contacted you, don’t be bashful. Call or email one of us:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Dave Roseman</b><br>204-401-6628<br><a href="mailto:Dave.roseman@comcast.net">Dave.roseman@comcast.net</a> | <b>Marty Piper</b><br>301-299-6519   |
| <b>John Padan</b><br>301-869-0616<br><a href="mailto:jpadan@comcast.net">jpadan@comcast.net</a>               | <b>Larry Lange</b><br>301-972-6775<br><a href="mailto:Llange3751@aol.com">Llange3751@aol.com</a> |

**PROPOSED REVISION TO CHAPTER BYLAWS TO BE VOTED ON AT THE MARCH CHAPTER MEETING**

*John Padan, former Chapter 581 President*

Your Executive Board has spent the past year analyzing, discussing, debating, and revising the chapter bylaws. The resultant document is included on pages 4 and 5 of this Newsletter to prepare our members for a vote at the March chapter meeting. Usually, only a small section of the bylaws is proposed for review and both an edited and a clean version of the copy are included. This proposal involves too lengthy a document to allow two versions to be included in the newsletter. Only the clean copy, for ease of reading, is provided on the next pages. An edited version, either hardcopy or via email, may be obtained by contacting Larry Lange or John Padan (see back page of newsletter).

There were several reasons for this extensive review. One was the desire to be less prescriptive and to add flexibility to chapter operations (for example, not defining precisely when and what time the chapter is to meet). Another change was the clarification that VPs’ duties are to assist the president and not necessarily serve as legislative or membership officers (although those roles are required, as is the newsletter). The maintenance of a membership database has been dropped, as we are now better served by HQ in this digital age. Associate and Social memberships have been defined. Additionally, we have formalized the relationship with the Maryland Federation, agreed upon the use of *Roberts Rules of Order*, and have added a mechanism for voting by mail.

**THANKS TO THE 581 FEBRUARY 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 fifteen Party Makers. They are:

- |                              |                           |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>John Albers</i>           | <i>Ronnie van Alstyne</i> |
| <i>Tina McDonald-Bennett</i> | <i>Charles Garfinkel</i>  |
| <i>Tom Kitchens</i>          | <i>Larry Lange</i>        |
| <i>Charles Matkovich</i>     | <i>John Nolan</i>         |
| <i>John Padan</i>            | <i>Marty Piper</i>        |
| <i>Mary Anne Scott</i>       | <i>Keith Steele</i>       |
| <i>Dick Strombotne</i>       | <i>Eleanor Williams</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 NARFE--Chapter 581 Bylaws

### Article I. Meetings of the Chapter

**Sec. 1:** The chapter shall meet monthly at a time and place determined by the Board and approved by Chapter members. The Chapter will not meet in the months of July and August. There will be a picnic meeting in June and a holiday party in December.

**Sec. 2:** Special meetings shall be called by the Chapter President when necessary, or upon written request of 15 of the Chapter's voting members. Written notice of all special meetings shall be given to each chapter voting member at least seven days before such meeting.

**Sec. 3:** A quorum for conducting chapter business, at either a regularly scheduled or special meeting, shall consist of 15 of the chapter's voting members. Less than a quorum may adjourn to meet on a future date, of which due notice shall be given to each voting member.

### Article II. Order of Business

The following shall be the order of business at all regular meetings of the Chapter, except that the President may make adjustments as needed at any given meeting:

1. Call to Order
2. Non-denominational invocation (or moment of silence)
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Introduction of New Members and Guests
5. Reading of or reference to the minutes of the preceding meeting (posted before the beginning of the current meeting)
6. Reading of Communications
7. Reports of Officers
8. Reports of Committees as requested by the President
9. Unfinished Business
10. New Business
11. Announcements
12. Program
13. 50/50 Drawing
14. Adjournment

### Article III. Officers and Committees

**Sec. 1:** The elected officers of the Chapter shall consist of a President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, and such other officers as the Chapter may elect.

**Sec. 2:** The President shall preside over all Executive Board and regular meetings; shall enforce observance of the By-Laws; shall appoint Committee Chairpersons; and shall be an ex-officio member of all committees with the exception of the Nominating Committee.

**Sec. 3:** The First Vice President shall assume such duties as assigned by the President and, when called upon, assist the President and in his/her absence shall perform his/her duties. He/she shall immediately succeed to the Presidency in case of vacancy in that office.

**Sec. 4:** The Second Vice President shall assume such duties as assigned by the President and, when called upon, assist the President and shall automatically succeed to the position of First Vice President in case of a vacancy in that office.

**Sec. 5:** The Secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of each Executive Board meeting and of each Chapter meeting. Detailed minutes of each meeting shall be prepared and read or posted at the next Chapter meeting.

**Sec. 6:** The Treasurer shall: (a) be custodian of monies belonging to the Chapter; (b) be responsible for depositing these funds in any federally insured financial institution in the name of NARFE Gaithersburg Chapter No. 581; (c) upon request, give receipts for all funds received and pay by check all valid debts incurred by the Executive Board or by action of the Chapter; (d) be responsible for keeping an accurate record and itemized account of all receipts and disbursements; (e) make a brief report at each meeting; (f) submit to the President, in July, a report summarizing all financial transactions since the preceding annual report of the Treasurer; (g) upon the close of one fiscal year, prepare a budget for the next fiscal year in consultation with the President – the fiscal year shall be from July 1 to the following June 30 – the budget shall be subject to approval first by the Executive Board and then, by September 30, the general membership – the budget shall be used for guidance throughout the year – the Treasurer's annual report shall include a direct comparison with the budget approved for that year; and (h) ensure filing of tax reports required by the IRS.

**Sec. 7:** In July, at the start of the chapter's fiscal year, the financial records shall be submitted by the Treasurer to the Auditing Committee or to the Auditor appointed by the President. A report of the Auditing Committee or Auditor shall be made at the September Executive Board and Chapter meetings. In the event a Treasurer does not complete his or her term of office, an audit will be conducted promptly and a report presented to the Executive Board within two months and to the Chapter at its next meeting following that Board meeting.

**Sec. 8:** The Financial Secretary is responsible for Chapter 581 Life Memberships, including receiving Life Membership payments, recording them, notifying the Chapter Membership Chair for forwarding to National, and providing information and forwarding payments to the Treasurer for adding to the Chapter Life Membership account.

**Sec. 9:** A Membership officer shall be appointed by the President. The duty of the membership officer shall be to develop and carry out a membership plan that describes organized efforts to gain and keep members, encourage dues withholding, and contact lapsed members. A further duty shall be the maintenance of the Chapter's membership database.

**Sec. 10:** Legislative officers shall be appointed by the President to: (a) keep abreast of state and national legislative matters concerning federal civil annuitants and prospective annuitants; and (b) make recommendations for action to the Chapter, the Federation, and the Association.

**Sec. 11:** There shall be an Executive Board consisting of all elected Chapter officers, past presidents, committee chairpersons and such other persons as the President may appoint and who are approved by the Executive Board. Appointment and approval shall be noted in the applicable Board meeting minutes. The Executive Board shall meet monthly (except in the months of June, July, August, and December) when called by the President.

The meetings shall be open to any Chapter members, but only Executive Board members shall have a vote. There shall be a planning meeting of the Executive Board every August.

#### **Article IV. Election of Officers**

**Sec.1:** The President shall appoint a Nominating Committee in November prior to an election year. The Nominating Committee Report shall be made at the April Board and Chapter meetings.

**Sec.2:** Following the report of the Nominating Committee, the President shall ask for additional nominations for any elective office from the Executive Board as well as from the general membership during the April and May meetings. Along with such nominations it must be stated that the nominees have given assurance that they will serve if elected.

**Sec.3:** Chapter officers shall be elected by a simple majority vote of the Chapter members present at the May meeting. Each member shall have one vote.

**Sec.4:** Each elected officer shall normally serve a term of two years or until a successor is elected and installed. However, an officer may be replaced for cause after due process by the Executive Board. The term of office shall be from July 1 to June 30. In the event that any officer is absent for three or more consecutive meetings without a valid reason, such officer may be asked to resign.

**Sec.5:** Elections will be held in odd-numbered years to ensure that the new officers have at least one year's experience before being asked to represent the Chapter at a National Convention, which is traditionally convened in even-numbered years.

**Sec.6:** If a vacancy occurs at any time in any elective office, the Executive Board shall select a member to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term.

**Sec.7:** Delegates to NARFE conventions shall be elected at regular meetings of the Chapter at least four months (National) and two months (State) prior to the convention.

#### **Article V. Dues**

**Sec.1:** Lifetime memberships may be purchased in accordance with rate structures established from time to time by a vote of at least 2/3 of the members present at any regular meeting, following due notice having been provided in accordance with Article VII of the Chapter Constitution.

**Sec.2:** Lifetime memberships shall not be refundable, transferable to another member, or transferable to another chapter. A lifetime member shall become a lifetime associate member upon obtaining primary membership in another chapter. A lifetime member who drops National membership shall lose Chapter membership privileges until National membership is restored.

**Sec.3:** Annual dues for Associate and Social members, who are members of another NARFE chapter, shall be due each January 1. NARFE members who affiliate with any Chapter other than their "Home Chapter" shall be designated as "Associate Members." Associate Members shall pay Chapter dues and may hold office within the chapter but cannot be included in the total Chapter membership count for determining representation at National Conventions. Interested persons, other than spouses, not receiving annuities from civilian service, who belong to the immediate household of a Chapter member, may be enrolled as

Social Members of the Chapter upon payment of such Chapter dues as the Chapter Bylaws may prescribe, but without payment of National dues. A Social Member may not hold office nor have a vote except as to social events of purely local concern.

**Sec.4:** The dues for Chapter membership will be set in accordance with rate structures established from time to time by a vote of at least 2/3 of the members present at any regular meeting, following due notice having been provided in accordance with Article VII of the Chapter Constitution.

**Sec.5:** Any chapter document relating to dues or contributions must contain this statement: "Dues payments and gifts or contributions to NARFE are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes."

#### **Article VI. Financial Authorities**

The Board would seek the approval of the membership, by means of a vote at a regular meeting of the general membership, before incurring expenditures whenever the budget approved, per Article III Section 6(g), is exceeded by \$2,000 or more with respect to any one item in the budget, an unanticipated item, or an accumulation of expenses.

#### **Article VII. Affiliation with State Federation**

This chapter shall be affiliated with the Maryland State Federation of Chapters, subject to the constitution and bylaws of that body.

#### **Article VIII. Parliamentary Authority**

The provisions of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised* shall govern chapter business in all matters not in conflict with the Chapter Constitution and Bylaws or the Association's Articles of Incorporation and National Bylaws.

#### **Article IX. Voting by Mail**

**Sec.1:** Although *Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised* discourages voting by mail, preferring instead for parliamentary bodies to focus on the direct exchange of ideas, there may be occasions when an Executive Board wishes to solicit the opinion of a wider segment of the chapter membership than those commonly in attendance at chapter meetings. This article provides that authority.

**Sec.2:** Issues of concern shall be brought to the members' attention by means of the Chapter newsletter.

**Sec.3:** If formal feedback is necessary, a ballot shall be included in the newsletter in such a manner that it identifies the member.

#### **Article X. Newsletter**

**Sec.1:** A newsletter shall be prepared and sent to each Chapter member for each of the months in which a Chapter meeting is held. The schedule shall be determined by the Executive Board.

**Sec.2:** The newsletter shall include reports of recent Board meeting decisions and actions taken at the previous Chapter meeting, as well as other timely news and information.

#### **Article XI. Amendments**

Amendments to these By-Laws may be enacted by concurrence of two-thirds of the members present at any regular meeting, provided due notice has been given in accordance with Article VII(b) of the Chapter Constitution.

## DEADLINE!! — MARCH 31<sup>st</sup> FOR CONVENTION REGISTRATION

The basic details of the MD Federation Convention were offered in our February newsletter. This is a crucial period for Federal employees and annuitants and others in the public service sector. Come to this two-day convention in Bowie and hear top speakers, such as NARFE's VP Paul Carew, bring you up to date on NARFE's efforts to prevent us from being forgotten. We will also hear from John Gage, President of AFGE, on Tuesday. As noted last month, we don't plan all work. There'll be door prizes each day and the 50-50 will be split between two ticket-holding attendees. We'll have some fun with a reception and banquet with a live band. If you go as a delegate for this chapter, your registration and banquet costs will be reimbursed. Even though you register now, you will of course have to check in with the convention registration tables to receive your convention material. That process begins at 8 a.m. on Monday May 2 so you'll have to be there early. Be sure to call the hotel by March 31 if you plan to stay over Sunday and/or Monday in order to get the conference rate (Comfort Inn, 301-464-0089). If you have any questions, contact John Padan (see back page of newsletter).

## RECOGNITION AND SPECIAL THANKS

*Mary Anne Scott, President, Chapter 581*

There are many members who keep our chapter running smoothly. Everyone's contribution, small or large, is appreciated. But sometimes we need to give a special thanks to a few individuals.

At our last Board meeting, Nancy Kupperian announced that she was resigning from Ways and Means. For many years as a travel agent, she has made substantial monetary contributions to the chapter from commissions on travel booked by chapter members. Our sincere thanks go to Nancy for her years of service on Ways and Means and for her efforts as part of the Executive Board of Chapter 581. Though you won't see her travel column in the newsletter, she can still be reached at [info@stwcruises.com](mailto:info@stwcruises.com) or 301-428-3366 for your travel needs.

A special thanks also goes to John Padan and Larry Lange for making time amongst all their other responsibilities, Chapter and Federation, to lead the effort within the Executive Board to revise the chapter's Bylaws. Please take a look at these on pages 4-5. At our next Chapter Meeting, this Bylaws revision will be considered for approval.

## FEDERATION NEWS: MEMBERSHIP RETENTION

*Dick Strombotne, Federation Treasurer*

Phone: 240-632-9881, Email: [DickS.narfe@comcast.net](mailto:DickS.narfe@comcast.net)

The Maryland Federation of Chapters (Maryland NARFE) has undertaken three activities to increase membership retention. In 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 January, 35 of these lapsed members had rejoined for a total of 60 membership 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 dues withholding, Gaithersburg chapter members pay just \$3.50 per month to cover annual chapter dues of \$8.00 and 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](http://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 the approach is. President Mary Anne Scott sent some 20 letters to lapsed members of Gaithersburg Chapter 581.

NARFE has a long-standing policy requiring lapsed members to come back as **new members** if they rejoin more than one year after their membership has expired. It is hard to see now how that policy fosters retention. Consequently, Membership Retention Committee Chairman Dick Strombotne is seeking the end of this policy. The arbitrary one-year limitation hinders NARFE's efforts to retain members and grow in numbers. Currently NARFE has no continuing program in place to get lapsed members to rejoin after their membership has been expired for more than six months.

# 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. At our meeting on February 16<sup>th</sup>, the Council began 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. Jennifer Ramsey, president of NARFE's Rockville Chapter 1127, and I visited the Village at Rockville (formerly the National Lutheran Home) on February 10<sup>th</sup> and spoke with its Marketing Director about holding our MCAC event there on the evening of July 27<sup>th</sup>. We were very pleased with not only the Village at Rockville's social hall, but also the reasonable prices for their suggestions of 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. This event will of course be publicized in the newsletters of the other Montgomery County NARFE chapters; we're also looking into a postcard mailing to the AFE's in Montgomery County informing them of this meeting to be mailed approximately the second week of July. The Council plans to meet again on April 13<sup>th</sup> to continue planning for this late July event.

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

## INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

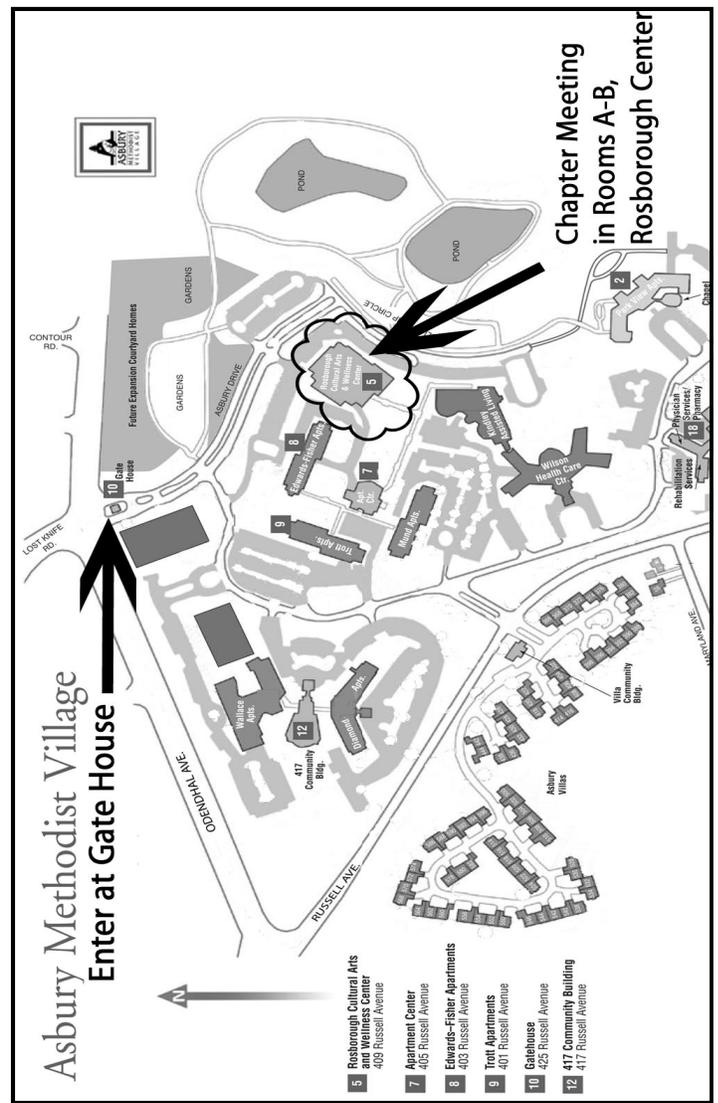


Remember, when the Montgomery County schools are late opening or closed, NARFE Chapter 581 scheduled meetings or events will not be held.

## 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

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Silver Spring MD  
Permit # 5715



**Every Member Get A Member!  
PROTECT YOUR RETIREMENT!**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**TIME VALUE MAIL!  
PLEASE DO NOT HOLD.**



**CHAPTER OFFICERS**

**President**

Mary Anne Scott  
301-515-8984  
[mas.narfe@verizon.net](mailto:mas.narfe@verizon.net)

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**

David S. Roseman  
240-401-6628  
[dave.roseman@comcast.net](mailto:dave.roseman@comcast.net)

**Treasurer & Immediate  
Past President**

Larry Lange  
301-972-6775  
[LLange3751@aol.com](mailto:LLange3751@aol.com)

**Membership**

Jim Short  
301-330-5084  
[j.short@comcast.net](mailto:j.short@comcast.net)

**Recording Secretary**

Marty Strombotne  
240-632-9881  
[martystrom@comcast.net](mailto:martystrom@comcast.net)

**Financial Secretary**

Donnie Sue Ferrell  
301-926-1361

**Service Officer**

Helen Berkson  
301-881-1168

**KEY CONTACTS**

**MDFed Federal Legislative Committee  
& Deferred Annuity, Special Projects**

Jim Cowie, 301-515-3005  
[jamescowie@att.net](mailto:jamescowie@att.net)

**MdFed State Legislative Committee &  
United Seniors of Maryland Delegate**

Dave Roseman, 240-401-6628  
[dave.roseman@comcast.net](mailto:dave.roseman@comcast.net)

**Mont. Co. Council of NARFE Chapters**

Larry Lange

**Program Planning**

John Padan, 301-869-0616  
[jpadan@comcast.net](mailto:jpadan@comcast.net)

**Asbury Liaison**

Rocky Jones

**Chaplain**

Ken Jones

**Community Affairs**

Charles Ferrell, 301-926-1361

**Fifty-Fifty**

Bob Hoover

**Sunshine Lady**

Marty Strombotne

**Greeters**

Marty Piper  
Rocky Jones

**Newsletter Co-Editors**

Larry Lange, 301-972-6775  
Tom Kitchens, 301-515-8984  
[tak.narfe@verizon.net](mailto:tak.narfe@verizon.net)

**Newsletter Assembly**

Marty Piper, 301-299-6519

**MD/PAC**

Dave Roseman, 240-401-6628  
[dave.roseman@comcast.net](mailto:dave.roseman@comcast.net)

**Web Master**

Judy F. Bernstein, 301-251-1482  
[chjb23@verizon.net](mailto:chjb23@verizon.net)

**Alzheimer's Coordinator**

Roy Buyer  
[royalbuyer@gmail.com](mailto:royalbuyer@gmail.com)

**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)