



# National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association Gaithersburg Chapter 581

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

## MAY 2011

**Our Next Membership Meeting:**  
May 24 at 10:00 a.m., Rooms A-B,  
**Rosborough Center**, Asbury  
Methodist Center. *Scottish Culture*,  
*Dr. Jim Cowie*

### **Other Upcoming Events**

*May 19 (Thursday)*

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

*May 25 (Wednesday)*

**Newsletter Deadline**

*June 2 Thursday*

**Newsletter Assembly**  
**Library, Edwards–Fisher Bldg.**  
**9:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon**

*June 14 (Tuesday)*

**Annual Picnic (See Bottom-Right)**  
**Bohrer Park, Gaithersburg**  
**12:00 noon**

*August 11 (Thursday)*

**August Planning Meeting**  
**ALL MEMBERS WELCOME!**  
**Conference Room, Bldg. 417**  
**10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon**

*September 27 (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**

*September 28 (Wednesday)*

**Newsletter Deadline**

*Put these dates on your calendar*

## **SCOTTISH CULTURE—ONE PERSON'S VIEW**

Our chapter is privileged to have a native of Glasgow, Scotland, as a member - Dr. James B. Cowie. In addition to his important work on Federal legislation, he chairs that MD Federation Committee, Jim is an interesting and entertaining speaker who has been asked to speak at several of MD's chapters. Now it's our turn. Please join us in May to hear Jim. More on page 3. You won't be disappointed. Another reason to attend is that one of our members is being honored for his service. John Padan will be presented the Distinguished Annuitant Award by Jennifer Malave, CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield.

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

In the coming weeks you'll be hearing more about the NARFE initiative, "Protect America's Heartbeat," a campaign to fight drastic cuts in federal pay and benefits. It relies on a strategy that educates and promotes the value of federal employees and retirees to our nation's growth and security. Our chapter has received a toolkit containing fact sheets, templates and other information to help guide contacts with elected officials and the media as well as other advocacy activities. It can also be accessed by members on the NARFE website. It contains facts about federal worker and retiree compensation and benefits. As the budget debate continues, we have to be vigilant and let our voices be heard. While information on budget debate issues will be contained in the NARFE magazine, the most up-to-date source for what's happening that we need to be aware of is through GEMS. If you haven't signed up, please do so, especially if you are an active federal employee.

There's another initiative designed to attract younger Federal employees and recent retirees – the new eNARFE chapter. Created recently by the NEB, it is a new online option for NARFE membership now being offered at only \$40.00 – \$5.00 less than the traditional NARFE membership. With an eNARFE membership, communications are all electronic (with the exception of the NARFE magazine, which will be mailed monthly). Members would not belong to a local chapter, but would be part of the national chapter.

My thanks to the Nominating Committee (Larry Lange, John Padan, Marty Piper, and Dave Roseman) – they have been working diligently for the past couple of months to identify new volunteers willing to serve supporting operations of the Chapter (see page 3). A continuing influx of dedicated volunteers is vital to the health and viability of our chapter.

Next month look for a Special Edition Newsletter for highlights of the 40<sup>th</sup> Maryland State Convention held on May 2-3.

Remember that our Annual Picnic at Bohrer Park is coming up on June 14 – a lot of good food for a very reasonable price. See page 5 for the coupon to sign up for this event. And if you're interested in helping with this pseudo-self-catered lunch, please contact me (301-515-8984 or mas.narfe@verizon.net). We still need help with a couple of items, like bringing a cooler/ice/drinks. Think about it – where else could you get an excellent lunch for \$10.00, see some classic cars, and enjoy spending a couple of hours conversing with fellow members. See you all there.

**FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

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



The budget for 2011-12 passed by the House continues the attacks on the Federal Community. It seeks a further 10% reduction in the scope of Government beyond the cuts which were finally agreed for the 2010-11 budget at the very last minute to avoid a shutdown. The latest budget proposes a five-year freeze on federal civilian salaries and elimination of bonuses and step increases during that period. These additional constraints had been suggested for the two-year freeze implemented by President Obama, but a bipartisan effort rejected these additional penalties. The House budget also proposed that the current Medicare and Medicaid arrangements be changed, with Medicare participants receiving a voucher to purchase insurance. The amount received would be subject to means testing and would increase with changes in the cost of living. However, since medical costs are rising at a faster rate, this would most likely mean that the extra would need to be paid by the policy holder.

The other view on medical reform is that the Health Care Act passed last year contains more promising steps towards containing additional costs, and should be tweaked with experience, rather than setting off in a new and uncertain direction.

The House budget will not be acceptable to the Senate nor to the President, which will lead to negotiations that will most likely be tangled up in the need to raise the debt ceiling of \$14.3 trillion within the next month or so. The Democrats would prefer the raising of the debt ceiling to be addressed separately from the arguments over the budget plans, but the Republicans will most likely only agree to a higher debt ceiling if there is acceptance of more of their budget proposals. There seems to be an awareness that we cannot afford to default on the debt, not least because 48% is due to foreign creditors including China. However, our politics is so polarized that there is no guarantee that the debt ceiling will be raised in a timely manner.

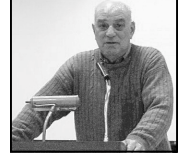
The irony of the apparent concern over the debt ceiling is that neither the Republican nor Democratic budget proposals will reduce the debt for many years to come. Quite the opposite since the debt would be expected to increase by 7 or 9 trillion dollars before the budget became balanced.

If one was truly focused on debt reduction, then one needs to consider what might be done to the larger cost areas, since the discretionary spending which is receiving so

(Jim Cowie continued on page 3.)

**STATE LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

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



The current legislative session ended in early April. Not much was done for seniors and the legislators left a lot of unfinished business on the table. Included in the unfinished business are funding for transportation projects and Governor O'Malley's bills on wind power and the curbing of septic tanks. Several bills that fell short of passage and will probably be brought up again included same sex marriage and medical use of marijuana. The only tax raised was on the sale of alcohol. The short-fall in our long-term budget still exists. Some of it was addressed in the changes to the pensions for State employees. The bulk of balancing this year's budget was done via accounting and other non-substantive moves of money. All considered, Montgomery County fared well. The state did not force the county to pick up the full tab for teacher pensions and the state will provide significant funding to the county, especially in the education area. In summary the entire Montgomery County delegation did a good job of protecting the county.

At our April legislative forum we were fortunate to have **Senators Rob Garagiola and Nancy King and Delegate Jim Gilchrist**. They joined us for lunch and then spent an hour giving us their views on the past legislative session, as well as their thoughts on what will happen in the future. They also speculated on what would be brought up in an expected special session of the legislature that the Governor might call for in August or September. Chapter members were able to ask questions. Topics covered included transportation and a possible increase in the gas tax; what was accomplished that specifically benefitted seniors; actions taken on state employee pensions; the alcohol tax increase; state investment in bio-energy technology; and the status of illegal immigrants and their instate tuition status. It was a very good session and we appreciated our legislators taking the time to spend with us. We also hope that next year we can get a larger chapter turnout for such an informative and enjoyable meeting.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

*Larry Lange, Treasurer*

**All Funds Summary, April 21, 2011**

Checking Account	\$11,731.36
Certificate of Deposit (Restricted Chapter Life Membership funds)	\$2,977.21
<b>TOTAL CHAPTER ASSETS</b>	<b>\$14,708.57</b>
<b>Working Capital</b>	<b>\$11,731.36</b>

**MEMBERSHIP NOTES**

*Jim Short,  
Membership Chairman*



For the month of March we added two new members, seven members were reinstated, but we lost twenty members, including one who transferred to another chapter. As a result our chapter realized a net loss of eleven members.

**Please welcome the following new members:**  
Cheryl Martin • Ross Karyn.

**Please welcome back the following reinstated members:**  
Charles Bowie • Robert Fudali • Norton Haberman • Shuying Liu • Gerald Meyer • Steven Seelig • Henry Prask.

**We are sad to report the following deaths:**  
E. G. De Planque • Edward R. Stanford • Hiyoko Horshide.

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

Eda Bloom • Elmer Brewster • James Clark • H. B. Cranford • William Glass • Sidney Levine • Lillian Levy • Jose Lopez • Robert Mauri • Theodore Pejman • Frank Ruggeri • Kelly Sauer • Denise Swink • Paul Taylor • Phyllis Weller • Robert Ziobro.

Warmer weather is with us, and we are all getting out and about more, which means we are seeing friends, former colleagues and active employees that you haven't seen lately. Don't forget to suggest NARFE membership or reinstatement. Promoting dues withholding will help your friends save some funds and their membership will be automatically renewed!

**(Jim Cowie** continued from Page 2.)

much of the reduction attention makes up less than 15% of the total costs of the Government. Due to people living longer, leading to increased medical costs and a decreasing ratio of active employees to retirees, policies towards Social Security and health issues will need to be reconsidered, although they are currently receiving little attention due to election considerations. In addition, other areas such as tax policy and defense spending will need to be included in the reviews, so that the American people have a better understanding of the reasons why changes are needed and a more realistic awareness of what should be done than seems to be the case at the moment, based on the information provided to them.

We cannot bring the economy into better balance by continuing to squeeze the life blood out of the Federal Community. This is neither fair nor sensible since their contributions are needed by society, and it is important that enough quality people are attracted to Federal service to maintain the levels of service that the public should expect.

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

The Nominations Committee is pleased to report that four chapter members have come forward to offer to serve as officers of the Chapter, or to help in any other way, during the next two years. We can always use more help so if you have the time and energy and are interested in helping your local NARFE chapter, please call the Nominations Committee now. The new 2-year term runs from July 1 of this year to June 30, 2013. You can even nominate someone during the May 24th meeting. Please make sure that person is willing to serve!

As noted earlier, we need backups for the newsletter editors, Treasurer, membership officer, and legislative officers. 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](mailto:Llange3751@aol.com)

John Padan 301-869-0616 Dave Roseman 240-401-6628  
[jpadan@comcast.net](mailto:jpadan@comcast.net) [dave.roseman@comcast.net](mailto:dave.roseman@comcast.net)

**THANKS TO THE 581 APRIL 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 much appreciated. Last month, we had fourteen Party Makers –wow! They are:

- |                           |                          |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Ronnie van Alstyne</i> | <i>Larry J. Barker</i>   |
| <i>Tom Kitchens</i>       | <i>Larry Lange</i>       |
| <i>C. Matkovich</i>       | <i>Doug Newton</i>       |
| <i>John Padan</i>         | <i>Marty Piper</i>       |
| <i>Mary Anne Scott</i>    | <i>Jim Short</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 dates. We start at 9:30 a.m. and usually finish by 11:15 a.m. (We also set a new record at the P.O. We finished the mailing by 11:45 a.m. on 03/31/2011!)

**JIM COWIE GUARANTEES A FUN TIME DURING THE NEXT CHAPTER MEETING**

*John Padan, Program Planning & Past President of 581*

Elections can be a serious matter, so Jim Cowie has promised to give us a light-hearted review of Scottish culture including, for example, the evolution of the kilt and what lies beneath, as well as a demonstration dance, and the influence that Scots have exerted on U.S. philosophy from Jefferson to Reagan.

## IN MEMORIAM

*Jim Short, Membership Chair*



This is in honor of those chapter members whose deaths have been reported to us since the May 2010 newsletter. The month refers to which M-112 reported the person's death. This is the cumulative list of names that also appeared in our newsletters from Sept 2010 through May 2011. Deceased date from M-112 reports for 2010-2011 and - month in parenthesis when reported in our newsletter [NL].

April -	None
May -	Betty Thorne - reported to National 5/13/10 - (June NL) Katherine Horn (Mar 30) - reported to National 5/18/10 - (June newsletter) Ruth E. Jacobs (Sept. NL) Frederick E. Stearns (Sept. NL)
June -	Joseph E. Spicer - (3/18/10) - reported to National 6/8 (from wife, Sue Spicer) - (Sept. NL)
July -	Robert P. Kalish - (Sept. NL) Sandra Taylor - (Sept. NL)
August -	Pablo Guerra (reported by wife 8/16/10) - reported to National 8/16/10 Oct. NL) Martin McDonnell (Oct. NL)
September -	Nan G. Gindlesperger - (Nov. NL) Mary Weathers - from K. Steele - reported to National 10/13 - (Nov. NL) Douglas Earich - May 18, 2010 - (Nov. NL) Howard Painter - died in May - (Nov. NL) Carroll Schory - (Nov. NL) William R. Hosler - (Nov. NL)
October -	None
November -	Frank A. Ecker - (Feb. NL) David C. Moore - (Feb. NL) Clifford R. Sinopoli - (Feb. NL)
December -	Gordon Fairlane Hempton died 8/20/10 - (Feb. NL)
Jan. & Feb. -	None
March -	Edward R. Stanford - (May NL) E. Gail DePlanque - (May NL) Chiyoko Horshide - reported to National 4/21/11 (will be in the M-112 for April).

## NARFE'S MONTGOMERY COUNTY AREA COUNCIL IS PLANNING A SUMMER EVENT FOR ACTIVE FEDERAL EMPLOYEES (AFE'S)

The Montgomery County Area Council (MCAC) will sponsor a meet and greet event for AFE's on July 27, 2011, from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at The Village at Rockville (formerly The National Lutheran Home), 9701 Veirs Drive, Rockville, MD 20850. Light snacks and refreshments will be available. We are planning to invite a member of NARFE's National Office to attend. This will be an excellent opportunity for currently employed federal employees to meet and chat with individuals from their NARFE chapters. Attendees are encouraged to bring co-workers who are not NARFE members. The Council will mail out a postcard about this event to AFE's in mid-July, with an RSVP to Council Chair Larry Lange ([Llange3751@aol.com](mailto:Llange3751@aol.com), 301-972-6775) or Barbara Walter ([redslittle@verizon.net](mailto:redslittle@verizon.net), 301-598-8882).

Given the current serious attacks on federal employees' and retirees' earned benefits, this event will provide AFE's an excellent opportunity for them to see what NARFE is doing for them, and how they can contribute to NARFE's efforts to protect their earned federal benefits.

### Our April 50/50 Winners

<b>To the Chapter 581 Treasury</b>	\$31.00
First place Marty Stombotne	\$14.00
Second place Viola Hibbard	\$ 9.00*
Third place Willa Moore	\$ 7.00*
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$61.00</b>

\* These winnings were donated to the 581 Treasury.

## 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.



### JOIN US AT THE ANNUAL CHAPTER PICNIC

On Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, the Chapter 581 picnic will again be held in Pavilion #1 of Bohrer Park in Gaithersburg, the same location we've used for the last several years. As we did last year, we will have a self-catered lunch with some of the chapter members providing the food items. We're again planning to invite several individuals who own classic and antique automobiles to bring their cars to the picnic area and to tell us about them.

More on the food. Like last year, expect a lot of food (there might even be a few doggie bags). On the menu is fried chicken, coleslaw, baked beans, biscuits, some homemade salads, and hot dogs with all the fixings, and dessert. Also soft drinks and water will be provided.

Please plan on attending our Chapter 581 picnic – fill out and return the coupon at the top of the right column to Larry Lange – he should receive your check and coupon no later than Wednesday, June the 8<sup>th</sup>. (If your name is long, put your phone number on the back of the coupon!)

### RETIREE MEMBERS CAN SAVE \$\$

By signing up for dues withholding to pay your national and chapter dues, you can save \$6.00 each year. This is a 15 percent discount from your annual national dues of \$40. When you are on dues withholding, you authorize the Office of Personnel Management to withhold a small amount from your monthly annuity payment (like your FEHB health insurance payment). You do it once and you will never receive another dues notice. It will take effect at the end of your current term of membership, so you can sign up any time. It is easy to sign up for dues withholding - use the form in the April issue of NARFE magazine, page 42, or you may get this form from our Chapter Membership Chair, Jim Short; fill it out and send it to NARFE headquarters in Alexandria.

### GET YOUR NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL – AVOID PAPER CLUTTER IN YOUR HOME

Just a reminder. Don't forget that if you want to de-clutter your mail box and home, we can send your chapter newsletter via e-mail. This helps to eliminate some of the paper coming into your home, helps the chapter by saving postage and the work of assembling, folding and mailing your newsletter. Let me know your e-mail address at [tak.narfe@verizon.net](mailto:tak.narfe@verizon.net) and we'll add you to the list. Also for those of you who leave the area for extended periods, you can continue to read about what is going on with the chapter, and not have to tell us to stop sending you the newsletter while you are gone.

### NARFE 581 Picnic 06/14/2011 Coupon

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # ( ) - \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Diners \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$10.00/each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ .00

Check payable to **NARFE Chapter 581**

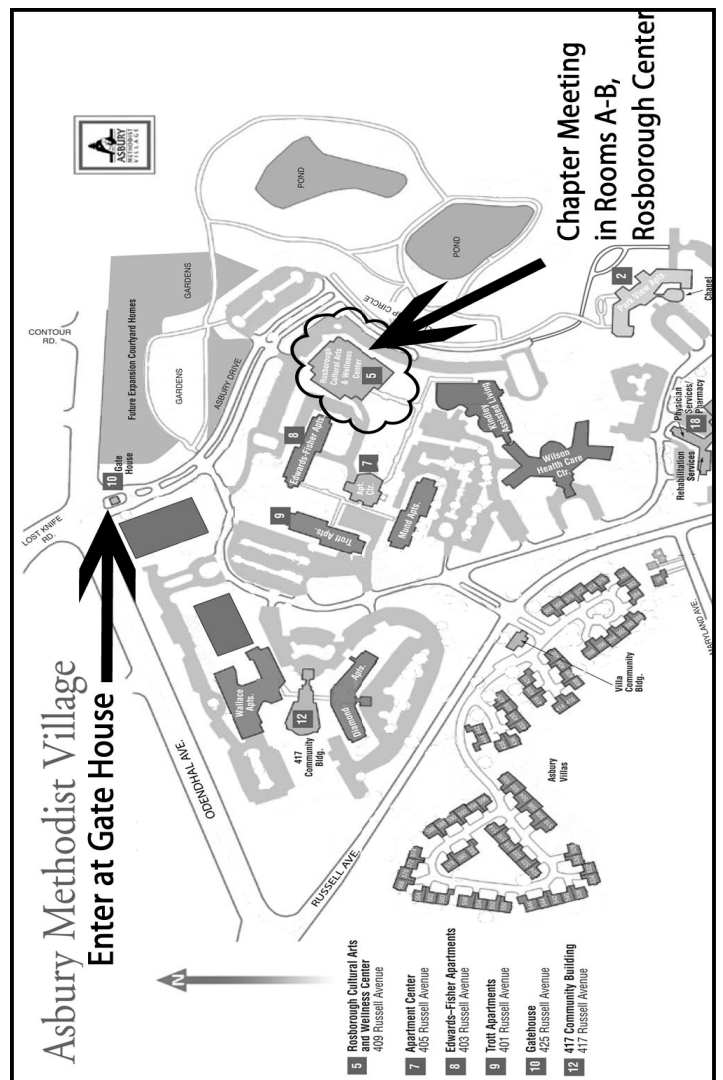
Mail to: **Mr. L. Lange, 11210 White Barn Ct., Gaithersburg, MD 20879-3146 before 06/06/11.**

### 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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**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)