



National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association
Gaithersburg Chapter 581

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

SEPTEMBER 2012

Our Next Membership Meeting

Tuesday, September 25th

10:00 a.m.

Rooms A & B, Rosborough Center
Asbury Methodist Village

Other Upcoming Events

September 20th (Thursday)

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

September 25th (Tuesday)

- Chapter Meeting
Rooms A & B, Rosborough Center
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

September 26th (Wednesday)

- Deadline for submitting
October newsletter articles

September 28th (Friday)

- Congressional Districts Six and
Eight Candidates Forum, Parker
Hall, Asbury Methodist Village
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

October 4th (Thursday)

- Newsletter Assembly
Edwards-Fisher Building
9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

October 17th (Wednesday)

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

October 18th (Thursday)

- MD Senior Citizens Hall of
Fame luncheon and Award
Ceremony, Glen Burnie, MD

October 23rd (Tuesday)

- Chapter Meeting
Rooms A & B, Rosborough Center
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Please put these dates on your calendar

A PANEL DISCUSSION BY OUR CHAPTER'S DELEGATES TO NARFE'S 32ND NATIONAL CONVENTION WILL HIGHLIGHT OUR SEPTEMBER 25TH CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Plan to attend our Chapter membership meeting on September 25th to learn what went on at NARFE's 32nd National Convention, which was held from August 26th through August 30th at John Ascuaga's Nugget Casino Resort in Reno-Sparks, NV. We're looking forward to hearing our delegates' experiences and impressions; two of our five delegates had not attended a national convention before.

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

John Padan and Larry Lange

We hope everyone had a very enjoyable summer. Three items we'd like to specifically underscore:

We've been able to move our Chapter meeting time **back to 10:00 a.m.** (In rooms A & B of the Rosborough Center at Asbury). We *hope* we'll be able to meet at the same time and place in Asbury in 2013 – at this time we're not sure of that – but we will keep our members informed about this issue as it develops.

There will be a District 6 and District 8 Candidates' Forum at Asbury on Friday, September 28th, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Parker Hall (we were not able to reserve the auditorium in the Rosborough Center for this event).

Members at the September 25th Chapter meeting will be asked to vote on the proposed 2013/2014 Chapter budget as it appears later in this newsletter.

This is Chapter 581's first newsletter of this NARFE year. You may notice changes in this issue. We are very appreciative of the years of diligent and tedious newsletter creation on the part of Tom Kitchens, Mary Anne Scott, and Judy Bernstein. Now we are trying to reduce the work-load involved in producing the newsletter. One way is for us to coordinate our written material and then turn it over to our printer who plans to transition into a more common newsletter format. Individual submissions will be "wrapped"

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FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE REPORT

*Jim Cowie, MDFed Federal
Legislative Committee Chairman,
Deferred Annuity Coordinator, and more*

NARFE is a non-partisan organization with a membership that is spread all over the political spectrum. Hence, it is improper for NARFE officers to promote one party over the other, because there are many different aspects of policy which cause our members to decide on their choices.

However, we need to consider the reason for NARFE's existence which is to "defend the benefits and interests of the Federal Community" where there can be no doubt that one party is much more antagonistic to our interests than the other.

The budget passed in the House in 2012 makes this very clear. Savings from the Federal workforce would total \$368 billion over 10 years on top of the \$75 billion already being contributed by Federal employees. The freeze on basic federal pay rates would be extended to five years, and the Federal workforce would be cut by 10% over three years, amounting to a reduction of 200,000 positions.

NARFE President, Joe Beaudoin, commented that, "the belief behind this budget, that it is permissible to penalize middle-class federal workers, who protect Americans and keep our nation moving forward, is frightening."

This budget has not yet been implemented, because it was rejected in the Senate, but it has been made clear that it will be reintroduced next year, successfully, if the House and Senate are under the control of the party that promotes this budget. The damage to the civilian Federal Community could be even worse, if the cuts currently envisaged for the Defense and National Security sectors are reduced. The result would be that the roles and staffing of the Federal civilian sector would be a pale shadow of what has been provided in the past.

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STATE LEGISLATIVE REPORT

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

The State General Assembly just finished its second Special Session this year and decided to vote for expansion of gambling in Maryland. The result will be a seventh question on the ballot this November. While no State Offices will be voted on this November (Governor, State Senators, and State Delegates) there is a lot going on in Maryland.

There will be seven questions on the ballot. These include approval or disapproval of:

- (1) Expanding gambling in Maryland to include table games and one additional casino site;
- (2) Establishes that individuals including undocumented immigrants are eligible to pay in-state tuition rates at community colleges in Maryland;
- (3) Establishes the boundaries for the eight U.S. Congressional districts; and
- (4) Establishes that Maryland's civil marriage laws allow gay and lesbian couples to obtain a civil marriage license.

This does not include a large number of local elections and questions. All of these will have strong and vigorous support on both sides of the issues. In addition we have U.S. Congressional seats being contested in the 3rd, 6th and 8th districts. Also, Senator Cardin is being challenged by Mr. Bongino. This is a time for all Marylanders to jump in and support the candidates of your choice. Hopefully we will have an educated and active electorate. There are many opportunities to participate actively. All the candidates are looking for volunteers. This is how grass roots democracy works. It's every citizen's duty to cast his or her ballot and participate in the electoral process. Oh, I almost forgot we have a Presidential race being decided. If you don't vote you can't complain after the election, so get out there and be a part of this great 200 year old experiment in democracy.

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Jim Short,
Membership Chairman



For the months of April, May, June and July we gained 28 new members, including two who transferred from other chapters, and 25 members were reinstated.

During this period of time we lost 72 members, including thirteen members who transferred to other chapters, and eleven deceased members, for a net loss of 44 members.

Please welcome the following new members:

Skip Hyberg • Helen Marks • Philip Melvin • Ellen Sazzman • Tyler Mahy • Kevin Huck • Thomas Mahoney • Luis Osorio • Carol Shelton • Michael Veillette • Willie Brownlee • Ronald Cappelletti • Zigfridas Vaituzis • Karen Witkoski • Hsinpor Chen • Jacqueline Starr • Bruce Coxon • Elizabeth Gorski • Thomas Mahoney • Syed Ali • Stephen Birken • Liane Giradina • James Ochs • Sharon Ochs • Joan Dean • Thomas Weidner.

Please welcome back the following reinstated members:

Sarah Bernstein • Norman Ikari • Marc Lewis • Roy Milton • Marie Nelson • Joan Sitman • Daryl Thornton • Frances Freeman • Nancy Hurd • Gail Kleiner • Carolyn McGowan • John Queiser • Mark Rosenfeld • Robert Shewmaker • Gail Morrell • Rhonda Panzera • Violet Smith • Bradley Statter • Roy Simon • Phyllis Eddy • Roma Egli • Cynthia Gordon • Gregory Grason • Gerald Meyer • Susan Tipton.

The following transferees should be made most welcome: Etta Smith • Victoria Welch.

We are sad to report the following deaths:

Arthur E. Armstrong • Roena M. Roberson • Dorothy Trower • Barbara J. Conklin • Paul M. Boyland • Anthony Fitzpatrick • Jesse W. Hockman • Evelyn L. Lackey • James Yang • John P. Young • Nora V. McLachlen.

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IN MEMORIAM

Jim Short, Membership Chair

This is in honor of those chapter members whose deaths have been reported to us since the May 2011 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 2011 through May 2012.

Deceased (from M-112 reports for 2011-2012 - month in parenthesis refers to month reported in the Newsletter)

April 2011

Robert F. Fudali
Chiyoko Hoshide

May 2011

Michael F. Crowley
Carol Ann Manen
Joseph Steinberg

June 2011

Milton S. Rutstein

October 2011

Nan Thien
Frank W. Young
Robert G. Lecompte
Rosalie McNish
Theresa H. Lin

November 2011

Edward Lantz

December 2011

Marvin Gettner
John T. Young
Elizabeth Cuthill

January 2012

Patrick W. Carlin

February 2012

Evelyn Saile
Donna Randolph
Leonard Soffer

March 2012

Alice P. Canterbury
Clinton F. Wells
Robert Savage

IN MEMORIAM –**Meredith G. Williams, Jr.**

We were very sorry to learn of the death of a long time and devoted Chapter 581 member, Meredith Williams, on Friday, June 29, 2012. Meredith earned a B.S. in physics from Bates College in 1944; during WWII he was an electronics repair officer on the USS Yosemite, a destroyer tender stationed in Sasebo Harbor, Japan. In 1947 he worked as an oceanographic technician at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts. Following a distinguished 32-year career with the U.S. Navy, he retired in 1984 as head of the Nucleonics Branch. Meredith was active in the West Montgomery County Citizens Association and the Potomac Glen Association. He came to virtually every Chapter Board meeting,

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**CHAPTER 581 PROPOSED BUDGET
7/1/12 TO 6/30/13 AND 7/1/13 TO 6/30/14**

		Budget '11-'12	Actual '11-'12	Budget '12-'13	Budget '13-'14
<i>Receipts</i>	Dues	9,500.00	8,427.14	8,250.00	8,250.00
	Recruiting Awards	0	14.00	0	0
	Life Membership Dues	183.00	183.00	140.00	110.00
	50/50	300.00	237.00	250.00	250.00
	Donations/Miscellaneous	50.00	39.02	50.0	50.00
	Federation Assistance	350.00	111.00	350.00	150.00
	Ways and Means	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	Total	10,383.00	8,900.16	9,040.00	8,810.00
<i>Expenses</i>	Banking Charges	20.00	0	20.00	20.00
	Newsletter	6,200.00	4,907.48	6,000.00	6,000.00
	Administrative Costs	300.00	277.00	300.00	300.00
	Recruiting/Retention	400.00	133.14	300.00	300.00
	MD Federation Dues	650.00	635.50	600.00	600.00
	Asbury Donation	900.00	900.00	900.00	900.00
	Programs & Picnic Rental	450.00	447.70	450.00	450.00
	Sunshine	100.00	36.90	50.00	50.00
	Miscellaneous	100.00	428.96	100.00	100.00
	United Seniors of MD Dues	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
	Convention Ads	200.00	210.00	0	200.00
	Convention/Training	1,500.00	505.00	1,500.00	600.00
	Mileage	400.00	255.90	300.00	300.00
	President's Discretionary	<u>200.00</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>100.00</u>	<u>100.00</u>
	Total	11,520.00	8,837.58	10,720.00	10,020.00
Sub Balance (Receipts less Expenses):		-1,137.00	62.58	-1,680.00	-1,210.00

Pass Through Activity - 7/1/11 to 6/30/12

<i>Receipts</i>	Holiday Party	1,320.00
	Legislative Luncheon	350.00
	Picnic	275.00
	Other	<u>0</u>
		1,945.00

<i>Expenses</i>	Holiday Party	1,353.00
	Legislative Luncheon	372.06
	Picnic	210.20
	Other	<u>0</u>
		1,935.26

Sub Balance (Receipts less Expenses): 9.74

Chapter Life Membership Fund - 7/1/11 to 6/30/12

<i>Receipts</i>	New Sales	0
	Bank Interest	.86

<i>Expenses</i>	Dues Transferred	183.00
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NARFE LEADS NEW COALITION, "AMERICA COUNTS ON US"

Roger Dahlman,
"Protect America's Heartbeat" Captain

Complementing NARFE'S Protect America's Heartbeat campaign, NARFE has joined (and is leading) a broad-based coalition of postal and federal employee and retiree organizations to advocate for our interests, and to put a public face on federal workers and retirees. The idea is to help our friends and neighbors recognize the role we play in their day-to-day lives, and to remind everyone of occasional headline heroic acts by federal employees. The federal-postal coalition includes 30 national organizations of unions and management (e.g., SES) at all levels, and represents nearly everyone in the federal community. What the coalition wants Americans to know about federal and postal employees includes the following:

- 1) "They are committed to their jobs for America and all Americans;"
- 2) "They are your neighbors and constituents;"
- 3) "They are middle-class Americans struggling to care for their families, too;"
- 4) "They are already contributing hundreds of billions of dollars toward budget savings" and;
- 5) "They are receptive to doing their share to help right the nation's fiscal ship, but cutting their pay and benefits cannot solve the nation's budget problems alone."

The "America Counts on Us" coalition plans aggressive eyeball advocacy with members of Congress to halt the non-stop attack on pay and benefits. See Jim Cowie's article in this NL for examples of potential impacts on federal employees. (More information about the coalition and the campaign can be found in the August issue of the NARFE magazine, pp. 20-22).

It is obvious that "America Counts on Us" is a logical extension of NARFE's Protect America's Heartbeat (PAH) program, and the skills and

experience of PAH provide a good model for leading the coalition. The strength in numbers of the 5 million coalition members will now provide stronger advocacy for our interests.

As we approach the November election, here is a reminder of things we can do as individuals to advocate for our interests as described in more detail in a previous newsletter (April 2012, p. 5):

Read the NARFE magazine;

- a) **Become informed of the issues and where candidates stand on them;**
- b) Visit the NARFE HQ website (<http://www.narfe.org/departments/home/index.cfm>) for up-to-date information on candidates' positions that affect employees and retirees;
- c) Monitor the **Protect America's Heartbeat** website <http://www.narfe.org/heartbeat/> for legislative and election alerts;
- d) Use the PAH website to easily **express your views to Congressional and Administration leaders;**
- e) **Register with GEMS** (Global Email Messaging System-
https://www.narfe.org/updaterecord/update_record.cfm) to get weekly e-mail reports about federal activities of interest to us ; and
- f) **Participate in candidate forums and support candidates of your choice in the general election.**

(More information about each of these items is provided in the April 2012 NL)

Additional reminder: We still need your stories about how your federal service Protected America's Heartbeat. The stories are powerful examples of important contributions by current and retired federal employees to the safety, security and welfare of the United States. When drafting your story, you may wish to refer to the general guidelines in my article on Protecting America's Heartbeat in the September 2011 Chapter Newsletter. If you need help or have questions, feel free to contact me at rcdahlman@verizon.net. Thanks.

Presidents' Message continued from pg 1

intact and not be cut into chunks requiring the reader to turn pages repeatedly to continue. Hopefully you will find this easy to read. We will still include photos from time to time.

Speaking of change, it is in the air. By the time you read this, there will have been an election of officers during the NARFE National Convention as well as voting on other matters brought before the delegates. Our delegates to the convention will report on their experiences by means of a panel discussion, plus questions from the audience, during our chapter meeting on September 25 (see "Upcoming Events" in sidebar and the "Program Box," above).

On November 6 there will be a much more important General Election, one involving the selection of candidates of our choice as well as referendums on certain state and local issues. We urge you to be sure to vote and we recommend that you not be a single-issue voter. Society is complex and the issues require thought. The enormously-costly political ads do nothing to elucidate the issues so we have to ponder them ourselves. Our Federal and Maryland Legislative reporters strive to explain the issues facing us, but only within the context of our retirement and health benefits. The others are up to you. You may want to think about what sort of society you visualize for the future and vote accordingly. But vote.

Fed. Leg. Report continued from pg 2

It is important that our members are well aware of what is at stake in this coming election, which has greater significance for our concerns than ever before. If the reasons why you joined NARFE are top of your priorities in considering your election options, then you are strongly encouraged to become active in defense of your interests, since, if the election goes badly for us, then it is very difficult to see how we will be able to protect our interests in the years that follow.

Membership Report continued from pg 3

The following members were dropped for non-payment of dues as of April 1: Betty Allen • Joseph Briggs • Jeanette Cohen • Paul Coulis • Stephen Hays • John Heybob • Ruth Innes • Alan McDonald • Gary Miller • Philomena Reed • Martha Shanahan • Barbara Turner • Kamla Butaney • Frederick Butcher • Scott Butcher • Verla Cook • Muriel De Renzis • Cynthia Falke • Richard Filer • Barbara Galen • Marion Hearon • Carol Robertson • Elaine Stilwell • Dennis St. Jean • Floyd Swanson • Ahmad Wahed • Joseph Watts • David Webb • Kerry Webb • Byron Williams • Pamela Wong • Carol Yang • Sun-ying Yeh • Trina Anglin • Cecelia Bland • Richard Dove • Bythel Dutton • Libby Goldstein • Samuel Korper • James Lombardo • Gerald Meyer • Michael Tokar • Thomas Woo • Gerard Burke • Barbara Huffman • Rabia Oflaz • Walter Pancik • Roger Sendelbach • Eugene White.

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.

A new NARFE year is starting, and it is a good time for each of us to:

1. Recruit new members. We all know people who should be members of NARFE but aren't. Convince them it is in their best interests to join NARFE. If you want any literature, please pick it up at our monthly meetings, or contact me;
2. Look at the list of dropped members above, and call any you know to encourage them to reinstate their membership;
3. Come to the September meeting and bring a friend.

50/50 Winners at the June 12, 2012 Chapter Picnic

To the Chapter 581 Treasury	\$ 20.00
First Place George Donovan	\$ 8.00
Second Place Roger Dahlman	\$ 7.00
Third Place Larry Barker	\$ 5.00
<i>Total</i>	\$ 40.00

AUDIT REPORT

Dick Strombotne, Chair

On July 11, 2012, the Audit Committee (D. Strombotne, Chair, and J. Padan, member) examined Gaithersburg Chapter 581's financial records maintained by Treasurer Larry Lange. The Audit Committee used the F-131 "Checklist for the Audit of NARFE Chapter Funds" as a guide.

The financial records of revenues and disbursement were found to be in excellent condition. The checking account is kept in a federally insured bank. Two persons have signature authority. A random sample of disbursement records included signed approval sheets. The Chapter's finances are reported to the Executive Committee at each Board meeting, are posted at each Membership meeting, and are summarized in each newsletter. In summary, the Audit Committee commends the Treasurer for his conduct of the Chapter's financial transactions and his meticulous record keeping.

MARYLAND SENIOR CITIZENS HALL OF FAME AWARDS LUNCHEON

Once again our chapter has nominated a candidate for this honor and it has been accepted by the Hall of Fame special selection committee and the Hall's board of directors. Co-President Larry Lange will be honored this year during the annual awards luncheon on Thursday October 18 in Glen Burnie. Our chapter will organize car pools for those who wish to attend. Please make out a \$20 check to NARFE Chapter 581 and get it to me (John Padan, 19333 Dunbridge Way, Montgomery Village, MD 20886) by October 1.

The luncheon will be held at Michael's Eighth Avenue, 7220 Grayburn Drive, Glen Burnie, MD. A social hour will start at 11 am and the luncheon and ceremony will begin at 12 noon. Call or email John Padan if you need a ride (301-869-0616; jpadan@verizon.net).

NARFE'S MONT. COUNTY AREA COUNCIL (MCAC) IS SPONSORING A FORUM FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS SIX & EIGHT CANDIDATES ON FRIDAY, SEPT. 28TH

Our forum will be held in Parker Hall (the previous location of our monthly Chapter membership meetings) on the Asbury Methodist Village campus, Friday, September 28th, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. The four candidates have indicated that they would prefer the two candidates from each Congressional District to go separately; therefore the District Six candidates we've invited will speak from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m., and the District Eight candidates will speak from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. The format of this forum will be the same as in past forums: each candidate will be given approximately five minutes to make an opening statement; cards and pencils will be passed out to the persons attending the forum for them to write questions to be asked the candidates. These questions will be reviewed by a panel of Chapter 581 members (to assure the questions are pertinent, and to cull out any duplicate questions) and then passed onto the forum moderator to be presented to the candidates. Each candidate may make a closing statement. This will be an excellent opportunity to meet and interact with the candidates running in both these Congressional districts; please plan to attend.

In Memoriam continued from pg 3

and he and his wife Eleanor came to all monthly Chapter membership meetings. They were married for 62 years. Over the years Meredith was very active in working on our Chapter's newsletter, specifically the newsletter assembly gatherings. He worked closely with our Chapter Treasurer and Financial Secretary regarding the funds from our Chapter Life Membership program. The amount of time he and Eleanor devoted to supporting and attending Chapter 581 programs and functions was enormous. Besides his wife, he is survived by three daughters, nine grandchildren, and a brother and a sister. There was a visitation for family and friends at the Pumphrey Funeral Home in Rockville, MD on Tuesday, August the 14th.

**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
www.mdnarfe.org
www.mdnarfe.org/chapter0581



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