



MARYLAND FEDERATION

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2016



President's Message	1
Federation Directory	2
Legislative Report	3
Federal Legislative Committee Report	4
State Legislative Committee Report	5
Membership Report	6
Membership Retention Report	6
Region II Update	7
FEEA Report	8
In Memoriam—Marty Wish	9
Secretary's Report	9
Resolutions Committee Report	10
Budget Report	10
Treasurer's Report	11
Around the Federation	11
Calendar of Events	16

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dan McGrath

I would like to open our Spring Newsletter by highlighting a bit of reason for optimism about membership as reported in Dick Strombotne's retention article appearing elsewhere in this edition. It is beginning to look like the rate of decline has fallen and Maryland's monthly lapsed members mailings continue to be successful in getting them to rejoin. I believe we all agree that membership is the engine that drives our organization. It provides the resources, both human and capital, needed to accomplish our mission.

We have recently been fortunate to be able to aggressively move forward on two major legislative initiatives. First, our State Legislative program has taken on a partnership with Maryland Governor Larry Hogan in working for tax relief for seniors. State Legislative Chair Paul Schwartz covers this in detail in his report. Second, the Federation has embarked on a series of Forums for candidates running for two congressional seats and one senate seat. The first event was in Bowie on March 19 where we hosted a District 4 event. The second is a statewide senatorial forum scheduled for April 9, 2016 at the Woodlawn Senior Center in Gwynn Oak, Baltimore County. The final forum will be in District 8 and is set for September 17 at the Montgomery College Germantown Campus. Federal Legislative Committee Chair, Sudha Haley's report covers this in more detail.

By the time you receive this newsletter the Region II Training in York, Pa., April 4 and 5, will have concluded. Hopefully a good number of Maryland Federation members will have not only received important training on how to improve performance in various positions within NARFE, but also come away with a better understanding of where NARFE is headed with regard to Strategic Planning, and setting the stage for needed changes in the way we do business, which will continue to evolve as we ready ourselves for the National Convention August 28 to September 1, 2016 in Reno, Nevada.

We are now getting ready for our two-day Mini-Convention, May 2 and 3, at the Bowie Comfort Inn. This year it will not be our normal meeting. First of all, it will be a Celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the Maryland Federation's establishment on April 5, 1956. There will be a special luncheon on the first day to commemorate this milestone. The second exciting thing is that Governor Hogan has been invited to address our assembly about his efforts to grant

(continued on page 3)

Federation Directory

Executive Committee

President	Dan McGrath	410-641-5570	Mcgrathsop@aol.com
1st Vice President, Legislative Director	Gary Roundtree	410-419-5321	groundtreesr@hotmail.com
2nd Vice President, Membership Director	Jo Anne Groves	410-867-2207	jo.a.groves@gmail.com
Secretary	Pat Farmer	301-776-4645	buttonspaf@aol.com
Treasurer, Past President 2005-2009	Dick Strombotne	240-632-9881	DickS.NARFE@comcast.net
Immediate Past President	Ted Jensen	301-667-3165	tjensen.narfe@gmail.com
Past President	Ron Bowers	410-308-0420	narfebowers@msm.com

Contacts

(See additional Contacts/Committees on [Federation Website](#))

Alzheimer's/Lupus Coordinator	Barbara Jacobs	410-969-5980	gb1519@verizon.net
Chapter Development	Bernie Goldsborough	301-737-1315	
Fed. Employees Edu. & Asst. Fund Coordinator	Eleanor Kaul	410-896-4354	eekaul@comcast.net
Federal Legislative Committee Chair	Sudha Haley	410-535-5998	sudhabhagwat2002@yahoo.com
NARFE-PAC Coordinator	Gary Roundtree	410-419-5321	groundtreesr@hotmail.com
Budget Officer, MD-PAC Treasurer, and USM Representative	Dave Roseman	301-424-5652	dave.roseman@comcast.net
Public Relations Chair	Ed Reed	301-739-1641	edr3vigil@yahoo.com
Resolutions Committee Co-Chairs	Saj Durrani	301-774-4607	sajdurrani@aol.com
	John Stackpole	301-292-9479	jstackpo@alum.mit.edu
Service Officer	Harold Forst	410-661-4625	hforst@aol.com
State Legislative Committee Chair	Paul Schwartz	240-838-2200	pkasyanks@aol.com
Webmaster	Vacant		
Social Media Coordinator (Facebook)	Elroy Thomas		ejt385@gmail.com
Region II Vice President (DE, DC, MD, NJ, PA)	Evelyn Kirby	410-604-1141	ekirby@atlanticbb.net
NARFE National Headquarters		703-838-7760	www.NARFE.org

Chapters and Presidents

126	Western Charles/Indian Head,	Ed Rice	1519	Glen Burnie, Co-Presidents	Don Bender
126	Co-Presidents	Ron Bush	1519	.....	Bob Minghini, Sr.
251	Annapolis	Carla Duls	1522	Susquehanna	Harold Forst
258	Western Montgomery County	Charles Garfinkel	1734	Howard County	Burdelle Dowdell
306	Hagerstown	Russell Wingerd, VP	1747	Greater Bowie/Crofton	Jerry Kursban
357	Takoma Park	Vacant	1770	Bel Air	Wayne Whiting
409	Frederick, Co-Presidents	Kathy Siggins	1887	Wheaton/Glenmont, Co-Pres.	Earl P. Mink
409	.....	Elinor Abrell		.....	Ron Shansby
410	West-Mar	Donnie Gibson	1888	White Oak	Stuart Sklamm
422	Laurel	Barbara Hemming	1892	Aspen Hill	Linda Cohen
969	St. Mary's County	Joe Luskus	1936	N.W. Baltimore Metro, Co-Pres	Barbara Cuffie
1122	Northern P.G. County	Richard Bennof	1936	.....	Bessie Johnson
1127	Rockville	Jennifer Ramsey	1972	Waldorf/La Plata	Neil McGrath
1143	Leisure World	John Moens	1990	Catonsville	Catherine Hiebler
1260	Southern P.G. County	Bettie J. Hill	2166	Eastern Baltimore Area	Jerry Kerner
1363	Bay Area	Jo Anne Groves	2262	Upper Marlboro	P.A. Jeffries
1372	Tidewater, Co-Presidents	Louise Woods	2274	Ocean Area	Eleanor Kaul
	.....	Gerry Phillips	2306	Carroll County	Paul Beatty
1466	Calvert County	Greg Stottlemeyer			

The Maryland Federation Newsletter is published three times a year: Spring, Fall, Winter by the Maryland Federation, NARFE, 310 High Gables Drive, Apt. 205. Gaithersburg, MD 20872-7424. *Editor:* Linda Adams, 301-253-4740, ladams.narfe409@gmail.com. *Distribution:* Dick Strombotne, 240-632-9881, DickS.NARFE@comcast.net

seniors in Maryland some tax relief and his objective to eventually make all retirement income non-taxable by the state. Hopefully he will be able to report on some success on his and our legislative initiatives and in any event outline for us what he sees as an avenue to success in achieving the ultimate objective in the next few years.

One regular order of business at the Mini-Convention will be to decide on which resolutions we want to submit to National Office for consideration at the National Convention, August 28 to September 1, 2016, in Reno. Following our state Mini-Convention all Federation members who plan to attend the National Convention are asked to attend a full day

preparation meeting for the National Convention on July 26 at the Bowie Comfort Inn. At this meeting we will review what to expect at the convention and develop a federation position on each resolution, which has been published in the Convention Resolutions book that National Office will have sent to each of us who have registered for the convention. The most important resolutions will be those that deal with the implementation of the Strategic Plan, the outcome of which will set the future course of the Association.

Dan McGrath

LEGISLATIVE



Dr. Gary Roundtree

*Gary Roundtree, Sr., Ph.D.
1st Vice President
Legislative Director*

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Members of the Federal Civil Service community survived a 2015 budget process that started with a budget blueprint calling for more than \$300 billion in cuts to the pay and benefits for federal employees and retirees (and a 10 percent reduction in the number of employees) and NARFE ended 2015 with a long list of legislative accomplishments. The list includes major victories, not only in stopping the cuts laid out in the budget, but also in securing positive legislative changes worth thousands of dollars to NARFE members and their survivors.

I am reminded that people who are satisfied with what they have done will never become famous for what they will do. Thomas Edison said, "Show me a thoroughly satisfied man and I will show you a failure."

As we take a look at the environment on Capitol Hill in 2016, a lot remains the same. But much also is different, most notably the fact that 2016 is a presidential election year, and all 435 House seats and 34 Senate seats are up for grabs. This means more members of Congress will spend more time at home campaigning and less time in Washington legislating.

To maximize our influence with these leaders and Congress in general, NARFE has itself been working with an industry coalition made up of the four postal unions, several key business mailer groups, the postmaster general and the executive leadership of the U.S. Postal Service, to develop consensus postal reform legislation.

PLEASE CHECK OUT THE NARFE BILL TRACKER FOR YOUR MONTHLY GUIDE TO THE CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATION, WHICH NARFE IS FOLLOWING.

••



*Sudha Haley, Ph.D., Chair,
Federal Legislative Committee*

Sudha Haley

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE (FLC) REPORT

Our Maryland Federation Forums are full speed ahead, with top Press coverage. Last week, significant Maryland area publications, like the ***Washington Post***, the ***Baltimore Sun*** and others, listed our NARFE Maryland Federation Senatorial Candidates' Forum as one of only four Forums/ Debates across Maryland, where ***Representatives Donna Edwards and Chris Van Hollen*** will participate. We are extremely fortunate, through the diligent efforts of our own ***Patricia Farmer***, that the ***Maryland Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW)*** will co-sponsor this Forum. NARFE President ***Richard Thissen*** will introduce the candidates, and National Legislative Director ***Jessica Klement*** will serve as the Moderator. President ***Dan McGrath*** will open the Forum and First Vice-President ***Bishop Dr. Gary Roundtree*** will share NARFE/MD Federation's purpose for convening the Forums. The Forums will be videotaped and live streamed via Live Stream by our technical expert ***Ted Page***, with photographs by ***Melinda Scott***. The Senatorial Candidates' Forum will convene on **Saturday, April 9, at 1 p.m.** at the **Woodlawn Senior Center in Gwynn Oak, Maryland**. Please preregister with Dr. Roundtree to reserve a seat.

We commenced our launch of the Maryland Federation Congressional Forums with the **District 4 Congressional Candidates' Forum on Saturday, March 19, at 1 p.m.** at the **Bowie Comfort Inn**. Our Northwest Baltimore Metro Chapter President **Barbara Cuffie** served as Moderator, set the ground rules for the participants, and asked the critical NARFE-related questions you wanted addressed. Congressional Candidates **Anthony Brown, Glenn Ivey** and others participated. Our **Team Undertaking Forum (TUF) Leaders Ron Bowers, Drs. Raj and Shakuntla Mahajan, Kathy Siggins, Stuart Sklamm, and Charles Thomas** coordinated critical phases of the Forum with the guidance of our Federation

officers **Dr. Dick Strombotne, Jo Anne Groves, and Pat Dempsey**.

For all three of our NARFE Maryland Federation Forums, due to the Forum Hall capacity and security considerations, we are preregistering the audience. Only persons whose names appear on our audience list will gain entry to any of the Forum Halls. Those who provided names to **Bishop Dr. Gary Roundtree** during our February Federation meeting, will be pre-registered. If any others are still interested in volunteering during our Forums, please send me an e-mail right away. We welcome your service and commitment.

We are planning our third Forum for the **District 8 Congressional Candidates**, to be convened **September 17, 2016**, after the primary elections. Our **TUF Leader Kathy Siggins** procured Montgomery College Germantown Campus as the site for this forum. The Democratic and Republican Party candidates who win the primary election will be invited to participate. Our Moderator for that Forum will be **Region II Vice President Evelyn Kirby**.

As we plan and develop the remaining Forums, we are very grateful for the guidance and support from Dan Hidayat, Jessica Klement, Sarah Weissmann, Jason Freeman and Carolyn Dorf at NARFE HQ. We are especially grateful to **Ralph Watkins**, a NARFE/MD member, and **Vice President of the Maryland League of Women Voters (LWV)** for his expert and continuous assistance.



NARFE/MD Federation Leaders at Congressional Candidates'
Forum Rehearsal



Paul Schwartz
State Legislative Committee Chair

STATE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE (SLC) REPORT

Paul Schwartz

IF IT WORKS THERE IT SHOULD WORK HERE

- 26 Feb 2016
- Published in Guest Commentary in *The Sentinel*

For the very first time in the history of Maryland the number of Marylanders over the age of 50 exceeds the number of children attending elementary school. Apparently seniors in Maryland comprise a growing population despite the fact that the death rate of this group far exceeds the death rate of the other group.

Recognizing the importance of the senior population's contribution to Maryland's economy through their buying power, Governor Hogan has put forward a budget that includes both a senate bill and a house bill that effectively reduce the tax burden on seniors. SB387 and HB455 would increase the state income tax exemption from \$1,000 to \$5,000 for an individual that is at least 65 years old. The increase would be phased in over a four-year period starting in 2017.

Is this enough to prevent seniors emigrating from Maryland to more tax friendly and pension friendly states such as North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Florida, Tennessee, Delaware, South Dakota and so on? Of course not, but it is a major step in the right direction and should be recognized as such by every senior and every citizen who benefits from keeping seniors right here in Maryland.

Fortunately, Governor Hogan recognizes how much seniors depend not only on Social Security, but also on pensions and IRA savings to meet the ever-increasing health and long term care costs. While out-of-pocket health care costs of most Americans run in the range of about five percent of income, for

seniors the range is closer to 13 percent of income. Any tax break to help offset these rising costs is a welcome relief.

Of course the concerns regarding any tax break revolve around the ongoing debate between the short-term impact on the state budget versus the long-term impact on the economy. If you ask Comptroller Peter Franchot how feasible a tax break for seniors is, as I have, he will quickly downplay it based on the need to find the money in the budget to pay for it. I understand the concern, especially by someone whose responsibility directly relates to overseeing a balanced budget. If, on the other hand, you ask Lieutenant Governor Boyd Rutherford the same question, as I also have, he will point to a longer term vision that recognizes and appreciates the long term impact of the emigration of seniors away from Maryland and the associated loss of their collective buying power to our economy.

Much of the resistance to this legislation being passed in the Maryland State Legislature during the current session, which concludes in mid-April, seems to revolve around the fact that the proposed legislation is not directly targeted at lower income and middle income seniors. According to some legislators, this could, conceivably, result in a tax break to individuals who make millions of dollars in retirement income.

I find this argument, probably more an excuse, to be highly problematic. First, depriving middle and lower income seniors this tax break simply to prevent the wealthy from getting a tax break in the range of \$5,000, which, to a millionaire, is a pittance, seems rather misguided. I would venture to guess that most of Maryland's seniors do not fall into the category of millionaires and much more likely are extremely dependent on their pensions and Social Security checks as their primary source of retirement income.

I certainly agree that any senior tax relief we undertake should be targeted to those who really need it, but the fix to that issue is quite simple: Just as the proposed legislation limits the tax break by age to those age 65 and older, a similar cap can be placed on taxable income. If the goal of the opposition to the bills is to prevent the extremely wealthy from benefiting from a \$5,000 tax break, then simply make

(continued on page 6)

individuals whose taxable incomes rise above a certain figure ineligible for the tax break. This is an easy enough solution.

These bills, as well as others, will be discussed and voted on during the current legislative session in Annapolis. As these bills are debated in committee, I would like to point out two additional points.

First, these other states that have decided not to tax pensions or have eliminated state income tax altogether did not come to this decision for purely altruistic reasons. They came to this decision for purely economic reasons. My point: if it works in these states it should work in Maryland.

My second point: Currently Maryland is second only to Connecticut as a state where businesses had the lowest share of state and local taxes. Connecticut is at 28.9 percent as compared to Maryland at 31.3 percent. Neighboring Delaware, by comparison, is at 57.9 percent.

If it really is critical for a funding source to be identified as a condition for reducing the tax burden on seniors, how the tax burden to the state is shared might be a good place to begin. ●●

MEMBERSHIP



*Jo Anne Groves
2nd Vice President
Membership Director*

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Jo Anne Groves

Spring is here! Spring gives us a feeling of renewed hope, of new growth, of increased vigor.

After a long winter season, spring gives us many opportunities to rejuvenate our chances to recruit new members into our NARFE organization. During the spring/summer season, many government departments are hosting conventions, retirement seminars and health fairs. Please take the initiative to research the activities near your Chapter and host a NARFE membership table. ●●

~~~~~



*Dick Strombotne, Chair  
Membership Retention Committee*

**MEMBERSHIP RETENTION REPORT**

Dick Strombotne

**Overview.** This report reviews trends in voting members for the past 12 months ending in January 2016 compared with the same period a year earlier. It looks at voting members for national NARFE, eNARFE chapter 2363, NARFE excluding eNARFE chapter, and for the Maryland Federation of Chapters. It is beginning to look like the rate of decline of NARFE's voting members has fallen – good news. Maryland NARFE's monthly lapsed members mailings continue to be successful in getting them to rejoin.

**Voting Members.** Comparing membership numbers of voting members at the end of January in each of 2014, 2015 and 2016, the year-over-year decline in NARFE's voting members was 16,000 (6.9 percent) in 2015 and 9,600 (4.3 percent) in 2016. The end of January numbers for the three years are: 237,000; 220,700; and 211,100 respectively (rounded to the nearest multiple of 100). Look closely at those percentage changes again. The most recent

*(continued on page 7)*

percentage change is one-third less than the percentage change for a year earlier.

Increases in the number of voting members in eNARFE Chapter 2363 explain much of the improvement. The end-of-January numbers are 21,600; 25,200; and 30,800 for 2014, 2015 and 2016, respectively (rounded to nearest 100). This chapter now has 14.6 percent of all NARFE voting members.

By contrast, the voting membership numbers for local chapters (NARFE less eNARFE Chapter) show only slight improvement. The end-of-January numbers are 215,400; 195,400; and 180,300 for 2014, 2015 and 2016, respectively. The Y-o-Y decreases are 20,000 (-9.28 percent) for 2015 and 14,600 (-7.74 percent) for 2016.

Here are the numbers of voting members in the Maryland Federation of Chapters for the three successive Januaries: 15,369; 14,031; and 13,034 (not rounded). The Y-o-Y percentage changes are minus 8.7 percent for 2015 and minus 7.6 percent for 2016. There was an improvement since the rate of decline

was less in the most recent period than in the earlier 12-month period, but it was hardly noticeable.

**Lapsed Member Mailings.** Maryland NARFE has been sending monthly mailings to lapsed members since February 2011. The mailings include personalized first class letters from the Federation President, along with personalized applications to rejoin NARFE and a NARFE business return envelope. They are sent about nine months after the members' expiration date, well after all the invitations from HQ to rejoin have been sent. As of March 5, 2016, some 6,283 letters have been sent to lapsed members through December 2015 with 520 of them rejoining for 741 years of membership. The response rate is 8.3 percent for this group. For the twelve months of mailings through December 2015, letters were sent to 825 lapsed members; 81 rejoined for 121 years of membership. The response rate was even better than for the overall group. It was 9.8 percent. ●●

## REPORTS, NEWS, EVENTS AND INFORMATION



*Evelyn Kirby  
Region II Vice President*

### REGION II UPDATE

Evelyn Kirby

Spring is a season of refreshing. In NARFE it is time to wipe winter off our boots and consider that the Strategic Plan before us as an opportunity to refresh, to CONTINUE our path as an Association. Clearly we are not the same organization we were when founded 90 plus years ago. We are not in the same times as we were when so much of our current policy and practices were put in place. Also clearly through the decades we came together as a committed group of members from time to time and changed this and that about the way we do business. We refreshed NARFE. The Plan is simply the current, workable

blueprint for ways we can again agree on strengthening and updating. It is not the abrupt starting of a new NARFE or stopping of current NARFE as we know it. It is a spot on the continuum of doing our mission effectively and of attracting the most likely members and business partners to join us.

Do not let time pass before reading the entire Plan --easily found at [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org). (HQ is also mailing some hard copies to Chapters and Federations). Read it twice. There is much to absorb stemming from valid research and candid debate. In fairness to the hard work and earnest consideration of all input to this point, please do not rush to conclusions by skimming or picking sections to ponder. The many parts of NARFE are interconnected. Refreshing one area leads to benefits for others. That in a nutshell is the entire concept behind the Plan and its proposals. Kicking the can of change down the road will surely work against us. It would be like knowing the car has

*(continued on page 8)*

engine trouble and needs work, but just letting it stall its way until it cannot go any further. What a high price to pay when timely repairs and tuning, or refreshing, will do what's needed.

Speaking of seasons, many have passed since we saw the absence of a proposal on FECA in the President's budget. Give kudos to our Legislative Department leaders Jessie Klement and John Hatton for securing this win.

Keeping on the seasonal theme, March is NARFE-PAC month. To continue to give Jessie and John the access they and other activists need to advance our legislative priorities, give generously to NARFE-PAC. Why? It helps elect members of Congress who understand and support the federal community. It builds strong relationships with Congress. It is funded solely through your voluntary contributions. It pools individual donations to maximize their impact nationwide. It helps our strongest supporters become congressional leaders with the power to set a fed-friendly agenda. Give what you can, and give as often as you can. Join me in becoming a Sustainer by giving at least \$10 per month. Contributions are NOT tax deductible, but they offer a way for our money to talk by the good these dollars can do.

Last item: See you in York, Pa., April 4-5 at the Region II Training Symposium. Registration details were shared with you some time ago. You will learn, get firsthand information and technical help, and take away other value and insights as you mix with peers from across Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, District of Columbia, and NARFE HQs. ●●



Eleanor Kaul

*Eleanor Kaul  
Chair, Federal Employee and  
Education Assistance Fund*

## FEAA UPDATE

The Federal Employee Education & Assistance Fund (FEAA) partners with NARFE. FEAA established a

scholarship program for children and grandchildren of federal employees. There are sixty \$1,000 awards given each year — six in each NARFE region.

### NARFE-FEEA Scholarships

The NARFE-FEEA Annual Scholarship Awards Program for 2016 started in February. Each year six \$1,000 scholarships are awarded in each region. Maryland is in Region II. The scholarship is for high school seniors with at least a 3.0 Grade Point Average (GPA) on a weighted 4.0 scale. See the February 2016 *narfe* magazine, page 47, for the details to submit an application. The essay topic is **"How is the agency in which your sponsor works important in the daily life of an average citizen?"** The regional judging panels will examine each application, essay and supporting documents. The official form (F-105) can be obtained by sending an email to [scholarship@narfe.org](mailto:scholarship@narfe.org) or calling Headquarters 703-838-7760 or see the February and March issues of the *narfe* magazine. Applications must be postmarked no later than April 29, 2016. Winners will be notified by FEEA and the money will be paid to the college. A list of winners and their sponsors will be posted on the NARFE website and published in the December and January issues of the *narfe* magazine.

### NARFE-FEEA Disaster Fund

The NARFE-FEEA Disaster Fund aids federal employees who are victims of declared natural disaster. Cash grants up to \$500 maximum are available to NARFE members in good standing who have been injured, incurred property damage or have other needs during and after a declared natural disaster. The grants do not have to be repaid.

### Donations

Donations to the NARFE-FEEA Scholarship Fund and the NARFE-FEEA Disaster Fund are tax-deductible. The contribution form, provided in each *narfe* magazine, should be sent with your check to the address indicated on the form. ●●



## IN MEMORIAM

### Marty Wish 1921—2015

Marty Wish and his wife, Doris, were very active in the Maryland Federation of Chapters of NARFE. Marty was a Past President of the Maryland Federation and Doris was the Registrar at State meetings for many years. The couple was married for 72 years, passing away three weeks apart.

During his years in the Maryland Federation, Marty Wish also served as Chairman of the Federal Legislative Committee. He enlisted many members throughout Maryland in legislative advocacy of NARFE. Through his legislative activities, he became good friends with Congresswoman Connie Morella, Congressman Steny Hoyer and Congressman Chris Van Hollen, Senator Barbara Mikulski, and Chris Farrell, NARFE Legislative Department, while both worked for the Veterans Administration.

Marty was the driver for many firsts in the Maryland Federation. He initiated receipt of the *Congressional Directory* for Federation officers. He established awards for deserving Maryland NARFE members. He also established the Federation Volunteer Coordinator position to keep track of and award members for volunteer hours spent on NARFE activities. Serving as Chairman of Maryland Federation State Conventions, he initiated Mini-Conventions (two days) in odd years, similar to regular (3 and a half days) State Conventions in even years.

On the chapter level, Marty was one of the spark plugs of Chapter 1887 Wheaton/Glenmont.

At all NARFE levels, Marty was a good friend and was always willing to help where needed. He served as a mentor to several Federation members. In addition to his NARFE activities, Marty was very active and well known in many areas.

***Jeanette Green, Past Federation Secretary, compiled these highlights for Marty Wish, with input from Gordon Brown, Past NARFE National Secretary; Chris Farrell, NARFE Legislative Department; Margaret Evans and Paul Mink, Chapter 1887 Wheaton-Glenmont. ●●***



Pat Farmer

*Pat Farmer  
Secretary*

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

It is time again to make sure that any changes in your chapter officers are reflected in the F-7 on the NARFE membership website. Accurate F-7 information in the NARFE database is key to preparing the updated Federation Directory for the Mini-Convention, May 2 and 3.

In addition to my regular Federation secretarial duties, I have been busy the last few months helping Dr. Sudha Haley with the Candidates' Forums, inviting candidates to participate; working on press releases and contacting the press; providing press releases and ground rules to the candidates; and creating candidates name tents for the forum; and attending meetings.

In my role as NARFE/MD representative to the Maryland Gerontological Association Board of Directors, I invite all of you to "Healthy Aging in a New Age," Maryland Gerontological Association's 34<sup>th</sup> annual conference, Thursday, June 9, 2016 at the Charlestown Retirement Community, 715 Maiden Choice Lane, Catonsville, MD, 22128.

Topics on the Conference program and speakers include:

- Judah L. Ronch, Ph.D., Dean and Professor, The Erickson School at UMBC; "How Words Make Worlds," describing the importance of the words we use and how language drives every day practice in the field of gerontology.
- Mike Kulick, AARP, "Don't Get Tech-Twisted: How Embracing Technology Can Positively Impact Aging." Learn how technology has shaped our aging population over the last 10 years.
- Nancy Havlik, Teaching Artist and Brandi Rose, Program Director, Arts for the Aging (AFTA), "Arts Intervention Strategies for the Healthcare Provider." Learn how caregivers can use arts

*(continued on page 10)*

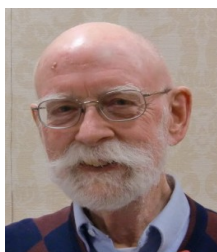
intervention strategies to improve interaction with clients.

- Daniel Kraus, D.C., Clinic Director and Harold Einsig, M.D., Physical and Sports Medicine, Electrodiagnostics Interventional Pain Management, "Benefits of Motion in the Elderly." Discussion of the benefits of motion in the elderly, including improved quality of life, safe and pain-free movement, circulation, and strength.

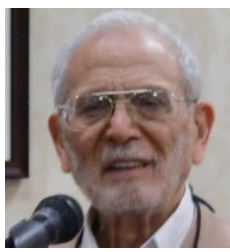
You can register at [www.mdgerontology.org](http://www.mdgerontology.org). I hope to see some of you there. ●●

~~~~~

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE



John Stackpole



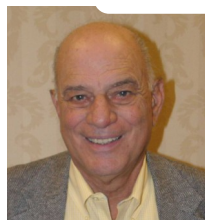
Saj Durrani

Co-Chairs, John Stackpole and Saj Durrani

Only two Resolutions had been received by the deadline of March 3. Both of them propose actions relating to Social Security, which is a topic of great interest to NARFE members. The Committee will review the proposals over the next several weeks, and after "due deliberation" will formulate its recommendation for each Resolution - to Adopt, Adopt as modified, or Reject. The Federation Secretary will forward the Committee's Recommendations to all members of the Federation Board, giving them adequate time to formulate their position on the issues. The Resolutions will be voted upon during the Mini-Convention on May 2 and May 3, when the Board will decide whether they should be forwarded to the National Convention in August.

The Resolutions Committee always welcomes inputs from Chapters on what they consider to be issues of major concern to members. We encourage you to contact one of us if you need assistance. ●●

FINANCIAL



Dave Roseman

*David Roseman
Budget Officer*

APPROVED NARFE BUDGET FOR FY 2016

Beginning Net Assets \$93,075

Receipts:

National Dues	\$50,500
Chapter Per Capita Dues	6,100
Income Mini-Convention	5,650
Other Income	<u>1,170</u>

Budgeted Income \$63,440

Expenditures:

Ad Hoc	\$ 200
Admin Gen.	900
Alzheimer's/Lupus	75
Chapter Assistance	2,300
Convention Mini	12,000
Convention NARFE Nat.	12,000
Executive Comm.	6,700
Fed. Board Mtgs.	8,000
Leg. Federal	4,500
Leg. State	4,500
Member Recruitment	3,000
Newsletter	1,800
Training	6,300
United Seniors of MD	<u>500</u>

Total \$62,775



Dick Strombotne
Treasurer

TREASURER'S REPORT

In the first two months of 2016, the Maryland NARFE's budget surplus was \$3,353.90. Net assets grew to almost \$96,430. The greatest contributor to revenues of \$9,500 was the ten-percent fund revenues of \$8,100. Expenditures were almost \$6,200. The Board meeting in February was the single largest expenditure at almost \$3,400. Executive Committee

expenses of almost \$1,100 were the next largest expenditure.

The budget for 2016 approved by the Federation Board at the February meeting is reported separately in this newsletter. At the time it was expected that the expenses of holding the several Congressional Candidate Forums to be held this year would exceed the budgeted amount. Those costs will be known by the time of the Mini-Convention on May 2 and 3.

If you have or receive a reimbursement check from Maryland NARFE, please deposit it promptly. ●●

AROUND THE FEDERATION

February 2016 Federation Board Meeting



Swearing in of new Chapter Presidents: L-R: John Moens, Chapter 1143 Leisure World; Evelyn Kaul, Chapter 2274 Ocean Area; Dan MacGrath, MD Federation President.



L-R: Chapter 1519 Co-President Bob Minghini stands in for Barbara Jacobs Federation Alzheimer's Chair to receive an Alzheimer's donation check from Chapter 306 Hagerstown, represented by Russell Wingerd, Dorothy Buhrman, and Ed Reed while Dan McGrath, MD Federation President looks on.

*Photos by Melinda Scott, MD
Federation Photographer*

February 2016 Federation Board Meeting



Evelyn Kirby, Region II Vice President.



Chapter attendees at the Federation Board Meeting..



Dr. Gary Roundtree, Federation Legislative Director.



David Roseman, Federation Budget Officer, MD/PAC Treasurer and USM Representative.



Left: John Padan, Chapter 258 Western Montgomery County.

February 2016 Federation Board Meeting

Clockwise Top: Dan McGrath, MD Federation President; Gordon Brown, Past National Secretary, Chapter 258 Western Montgomery County; Harold Forst, Federation Service Officer; Ja Anne Groves, Federation Membership Director; Saj Durrani, Resolutions Committee Co-Chair.



MD District 4 Congressional Forum



L-R: Candidate Anthony Brown and Barbara Cuffie, forum moderator and Co-President of Chapter 1936.



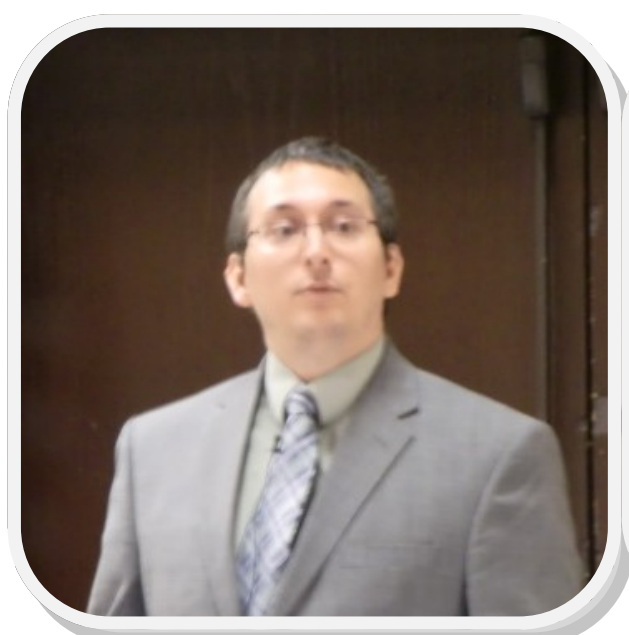
L-R: Raj Mahajan, Sudha Haley, Candidate Joseline Pena-Melnyk, Shakuntia Mahajan and Ken Haley.



L-R: Dr. Gary Roundtree, Federation Legislative Director; Candidates seated: Terence Strait, Joseline Pena-Melnyk, Warren Christopher, Anthony Brown, Glenn Ivey and Matthew Fogg.

MD District 4 Congressional

Candidates: Top Clockwise— Joseline Pena-Melnyk; Glenn Ivey; Anthony Brown; Matthew Fogg; Terence Strait.





National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association
Maryland Federation of Chapters – Chartered April 5, 1956
Maryland Federation Newsletter

Protect Your Retirement



Maryland Federation of Chapters
Dick Strombotne
310 High Gables Drive, Apt. 205
Gaithersburg, MD 20878-7424

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Come Visit
The Maryland Federation Website
at: WWW.MDNARFE.ORG
With Links for Easy Browsing!

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
Suburban, MD
Permit # 5715

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2016

April 4 & 5	Region II Training, York, PA
April 9	Senatorial Forum, Gwynn Oak, MD
April 22	Registration Deadline for Mini-Convention
May 2 & 3	Mini-Convention, Bowie, MD
July 26	National Convention Preparation Meeting, Bowie, MD
July 26	Fall Newsletter Deadline
Aug. 28-Sept. 1	National Convention, Reno, Nevada
Sept. 17	Dist. 8 Congressional Forum, Germantown, MD
Sept. 29	Federation Board Meeting, Bowie, MD
Oct. 28	Federation Training Day, Bowie, MD