



# **MARYLAND FEDERATION**

## **NEWSLETTER**

**Fall 2016**



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### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**



Dan McGrath

As this newsletter is being readied for publication, the Maryland delegation to the National Convention is preparing to journey almost fully across the country, stopping just short of the California border in Reno, Nevada. Right now over 1,000 members from our great association are registered to descend on the Grand Sierra Resort and Casino for what is billed as an event at which decisions will be made that will chart the future direction for NARFE. I sincerely appreciate the efforts our delegation has made to prepare for this journey and all chapter members who have taken the time to express their views on proposed resolutions and bylaw changes, which will be voted on. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find various primers that will help the reader better understand the proposals that our delegation will be asked to consider.

After the Convention, keep in mind that it is still an election year. On the Federal level we have seen increased advocacy both with our current Congressional delegation and candidates. In Legislative Chair Sudha Haley's article, she reports on the Congressional and Senate Candidates' Forums the Federation held prior to the Primary Elections. On Saturday, September 17, we are scheduled to hold two more in Germantown, before the General Election. The first will be for the two candidates for the Congressional District 8 seat. The second will be a statewide event for the two candidates running for the open Senate seat.

I encourage all Maryland members to attend both forums and to encourage family and friends to come also. The forums are on the same afternoon with a short break in between. The first Forum, while it is for District 8 Congressional Candidates, the questions asked can be applied to incumbents or candidates in any district and would help you prepare for town halls with the candidates just prior to Election Day. Just remember that as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Gary Roundtree cautions in his article, when we attend any event in our capacity as NARFE members we need to check our partisan preferences at the door.

On the Federation's Recruitment and Retention side I must commend 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President/Membership Director Jo Anne Groves and her team for their tireless efforts to encourage little improvements by a lot of members to recruit and retain. A recent example was this summer - two teams, led by Annapolis Chapter President Carla Duls and Ocean Area President Eleanor Kaul, recruited

*(continued on page 3)*

## Federation Directory

### Executive Committee

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### Contacts

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

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Chapter Development	Bernie Goldsborough	301-737-1315	
Fed. Employees Edu. & Asst. Fund Coordinator	Eleanor Kaul	410-896-4354	<a href="mailto:eekaul@comcast.net">eekaul@comcast.net</a>
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NARFE National Headquarters		703-838-7760	<a href="http://www.NARFE.org">www.NARFE.org</a>

### Chapters and Presidents

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

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several new members at Postal Conventions in the State Capitol and Ocean City, respectively.

We have other major events on the calendar for 2016. First, there will be a Federation Board Meeting on Thursday, September 29. Second, our annual

Training Day is Friday, October 28. As we get closer to these dates more information including agendas will be forthcoming in the form of call letters.

*Dan McGrath*

## LEGISLATIVE



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

Dr. Gary Roundtree

### LEGISLATIVE REPORT

#### **'NO BOUNDARIES' IN ADVOCACY WITH PARTNERS IN AN ELECTION YEAR**

The concept of "No Boundaries" at the grassroots level means that an advocate should not hesitate to get out of his or her comfort zone and reach out to NARFE's federal coalition partners.

This means working together and organizing with them to develop an effective strategy and tactics for furthering NARFE's legislative agenda.

NARFE Grassroots Program Manager Sarah Weissmann once wrote that while it may feel like we've been in the middle of an election year for many months, we are only now officially in an election year. This means our grassroots advocacy takes on a slightly different tinge.

Some NARFE members may already be in the midst of their campaign work. Others may just be thinking about how to approach 2016. Some of these decisions are driven by state's primary schedule, but regardless of where you are in the election cycle, now is as good a time as any to start planning your election-year grassroots activities. Do not wait until NARFE's "Meet Your Candidates Month" in August.

Recently, I worked with members of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare,

Alliance for Retired Americans, National Association of Letter Carriers, Social Security Works, AARP, Disabled American Veterans (DAV) to oppose the Chained CPI. This and other joint advocacy efforts have taught me to "Go out on the limb. That's where the fruit is." (Quote by President Jimmy Carter)

There will never be a right time to start your outreach. If you wait for conditions to be exactly right, you will lose the opportunity to make an impact on important and often fast-moving legislation issues.

Remember that Elections are inherently political and therefore, partisan. But NARFE is a nonpartisan organization. It is important that NARFE members leave their partisan preferences at the door and that they remain neutral in meetings with candidates, challengers and incumbents.

If you need more tips on this election-year grassroots advocacy, visit the Protect America's Heartbeat Campaign Activities Toolkit, available at [www.narfe.org/heartbeat/](http://www.narfe.org/heartbeat/).

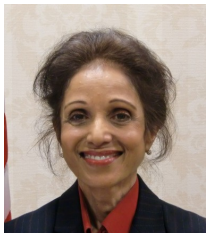
For the upcoming National Convention in Reno, Nevada, I have been selected to serve on the 2016 National Bylaws Committee, along with Chapter 1888 White Oak President Stuart Sklamm. What I can report to date is that we have already begun discussions, via GoToMeeting, on the proposals and amendments assigned to our committee, before we head to Reno.

The National Convention will include a breakfast on Wednesday 31, from 7 to 8:30 a.m. to thank top NARFE-PAC supporters and encourage additional giving to the Association's Political Action Committee.

*(continued on page 4)*

Our top NARFE-PAC contributors are crucial to electing fed-friendly members to Congress and defeating threats to federal employees' and retirees' earned pay and benefits. ●●

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Dr. Sudha Haley

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

## **FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE (FLC) REPORT**

We achieved our critical goal in March 2015, during our Crusade to Capitol Hill. Led by your Congressional District Leaders (CDL) in the Federation Legislative Committee (FLC), we met with every one of our Congressional Leaders and/or their Legislative Directors to address our issues. But, we were not resting on our laurels. With critical elections approaching, we immediately established other goals: to creatively promote grassroots Chapter member interest in the Maryland Senate and Congressional District elections; to help NARFE members make realistic and informed choices after personally judging candidates' responses; to maximize and strengthen visibility of NARFE; and to encourage new NARFE membership among interested and tuned-in nonmember federal employees, retirees, and their spouses and survivors. We are now on the final trajectory to attaining all these goals through our third, and definitive Senate and Congressional Candidates' Forum.

Once again, one of our shining stars, CDL and Team Undertaking Forums (TUF) Leader, **Kathy Siggins'** due diligence and initiative, have brought to us the partnership of the AARP. Formerly known as the American Association of Retired Persons, AARP, one of our Seniors' most prestigious, influential and respected nonpartisan organizations, will join forces with us and provide their significant skills, expertise and resources in this Forum collaboration to accomplish our joint mission.

For this key Senate and Congressional Candidates' Forum on Saturday, September 17, we have invited the Congressional District 8 nominees: Delegate James Raskin (D) and Dan Cox (R) from 1 to 2:15 p.m.; and the Senate nominees Congressman Chris Van Hollen (D) and State Delegate Kathy Szeliga (R) from 2:30 to 4 p.m. Parking at the Forum site of the Germantown Campus of Montgomery College's Bioscience Education Center will be ample and easily accessible. Please note this date and time in your schedule and please plan to participate.

In addition, as grassroots legislative advocates, please continue to subscribe to NARFE HQ's extensive in-depth and updated information, insights and analysis on current critical federal legislation. Their online webinars, phone calls and electronic messages, provided by Jessica Klement, John Hatton, Sarah Weissmann, Jason Freeman and their legislative staff, are most valuable. ●●

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Paul Schwartz

*Paul Schwartz  
State Legislative Committee Chair*

## **STATE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE (SLC) REPORT**

Our efforts to bring about a tax break for seniors during the 2016 legislative session in Annapolis were extremely frustrating yet somewhat encouraging. It was frustrating in that neither of the two bills designed to reduce the tax burden on seniors, namely Senate Bill (SB) 3837 and House Bill (HB) 455, made it out of committee. As you may recall not only did Governor Hogan support these bills but he also provided funding in the budget to pay for them.

Our efforts included mobilizing a write-in campaign by our membership to our legislators, developing a website to assist our members in those contact efforts, lobbying legislators to gain support, teaming with administration officials to develop a game plan, and providing extensive testimony before both the House Ways & Means Committee and the

*(continues on page 5)*

Senate Budget & Taxation Committee. With all of that effort, the two bills still never made it out of committee.

Yet, as I said, there is still much to be encouraged about. To begin with, the Senate's efforts to provide a tax break for the wealthy, namely SB 840, failed to gain any traction as it could not be reconciled with the House of Delegates. This is a good sign, since the failure of that bill to gain support sent a clear message to all that tax breaks for the wealthy in lieu of tax breaks for those who need it most will not be tolerated.

Moreover, we must be encouraged because the foundation we built for 2016 can now be further built upon as we move forward in 2017. However many letters were sent by our members in 2016 must be increased for 2017. The same for telephone calls, emails, and any other method of telling our legislators that we matter...AND WE VOTE!

So, what lies ahead for the upcoming session you ask? The State Legislative Committee will continue its efforts to support the administration and its efforts to bring about tax reform for seniors. Our website will continue to provide the tools for our members to have their voices heard in Annapolis. That website can be accessed via [www.mdnarfe.org/the-maryland-federation/committees/legislative-state/](http://www.mdnarfe.org/the-maryland-federation/committees/legislative-state/).

In addition, our strategy includes mitigating the efforts of the opposition to our legislation. As some of you may recall, the lone opposition testimony for bills 455 and 387 came from the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo). The basis of that testimony was the concern that a tax break would reduce local tax revenue.

We have both met with a member of MACo as well as provided extensive input in response to a request for suggestions on their 2017 legislative initiatives. In both instances we emphasized the need for MACo to adopt a position that supports including tax incentives for seniors as part of its 2017 legislative initiatives. Our focus with them reflected much of what we provided through our testimony before the committees: Seniors don't save for the future because for seniors the future is now. Seniors spend their money and it is spending that stimulates an economy. The loss of any tax revenue is more than made up through the buying power of seniors.

To find out who represents you in the Maryland State Legislature, go to [www.mlis.state.md.us](http://www.mlis.state.md.us). ●●



Jo Anne Groves

*Jo Anne Groves  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Membership Director*

## **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

Remember this? "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." Using that famous concept, I want to challenge you with a take-off from that quote. Ask what NARFE can do for you, but also ask what you can do for NARFE.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Read it again—! Please always ask NARFE for the guidance you need but also ask how you can help NARFE continue representing our needs and safeguarding our earned benefits.

We are well aware of our declining membership. We have been talking about that for years now.

How about if we focus on ways to increase our membership. NARFE members come from all walks of life and have vast knowledge. Contribute to our membership campaign by using your skills and knowledge. How can we reach federal workers? How do we reach federal retirees?

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Too many of our chapters are closing or merging due to lack of volunteers. How do we generate interest and encourage chapter members to volunteer for positions in their chapters. Most of the chapter positions aren't that difficult. A chapter fails when it depends on a few people to do everything. "Many hands make light work."

I challenge you to come up with some ideas on improving membership and encouraging chapter volunteers. Send your ideas to me, jo.a.groves@gmail.com. I will be happy to share them with other chapters. WE NEED YOUR IDEAS AND SUPPORT. ●●

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Dick Strombotne

*Dick Strombotne, Chair  
Membership Retention Committee*

**MEMBERSHIP RETENTION  
REPORT**

With the 2016 National Convention so close at hand, it is appropriate to review trends in membership for the past **two years** ending in June 2016. This article will address national NARFE, eNARFE Chapter 2363, and Maryland Federation membership topics.

**Maryland Lapsed Member Mailings.** This is a good news report. Since February 2011, Maryland NARFE has been sending personalized letters to members who have not renewed their membership in NARFE for nine months after their expiration date. They have been sent several membership renewal letters from NARFE HQ. The mailings are sent monthly. The letters invite the lapsed members to rejoin NARFE and include a personalized application, which lists the annual dues and the discounted multi-year dues. For the two years of mailing from July 2014 to June 2016 (1,686 letters sent) 170 members rejoined for 253 years of membership. The 10 percent response rate for a mailing is a very good result.

**Membership data.** For all of NARFE, the long term decline in membership has continued, with the exception of eNARFE Chapter 2363, which has

increased from 21,749 in June 2014 to 32,824 in June 2016, an increase of 11,075 \*(51 percent). Total membership declined from 243,435 in June 2016 to 220,081 in June 2016, a 9.6 percent drop. When you do the arithmetic these numbers report that the number of members who are not members of eNARFE Chapter 2363 dropped from 221,685 in June 2014 to 187,257 in June 2016, a drop of 15.5 percent.

For the Maryland Federation of Chapters, total membership declined from 15,483 in June 2014 to 13,316 in June 2016, a drop of 14 percent. Meanwhile, the number of eNARFE members living in Maryland increased from 1,734 in June 2014 to 2,708 in June 2016, a change of 974 members.

**Dues Withholding.** Every month NARFE HQ sends out reports of regional membership data. One topic is the number of members on dues withholding. This is one of the best ways to retain members as they usually stay members until they die, as you know. At the national level, the number of members on dues withholding has declined from 54,893 at the end of June 2014 to 49,697, a 9.4 percent change, which tracks well with the 9.6 percent drop in overall membership reported above. In Maryland, the number of chapter members on dues withholding declined by 5.6 percent to 2,135 in the same time frame. It compares very favorably with the 14 percent decline in the federation's total number of members reported above.

**Current Federal Employees.** As of the end of June 2016, current federal employees are 13.3 percent of total chapter members in Maryland. Nationally they are 11.3 percent of total chapter members. They are 17 percent of eNARFE members, which speaks well about the ability of HQ to recruit them into eNARFE.

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## REPORTS, NEWS, EVENTS AND INFORMATION



*Evelyn Kirby*  
*Region II Vice President*

Evelyn Kirby

### REGION II UPDATE

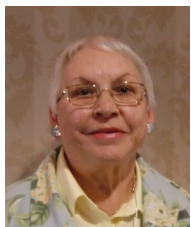
We have 48 proposed bylaw and standing rule amendments and proposed resolutions to consider at NARFE's 34<sup>th</sup> National Convention in Reno, Nevada, August 28-September 1. Twenty-five are bylaw or standing rule related with nine from chapters (five co-sponsored by federations), 13 from federations, and three from the National Executive Board (NEB). Twenty-three are resolutions with 12 from chapters (one co-sponsored by a federation) and 11 from federations. Five of the 48 are from Region II. Topics include: membership eligibility, chapter membership, dues distribution/adjustment, terms of national officers, number of regions, conduct of NEB meetings and strategic planning actions, member votes, Regional VP salaries, federation structure considerations, IT system modifications, mission statement text, and legislation and/or benefit proposals. Every proposal is worthy of attention.

I see the NEB submissions (three of the 48) as priority changes key to NARFE's future and its very survival. As I have done before—for well researched, factual reasons—I urge YES votes on them. They are: Providing for Optional Chapter Membership, Authorizing the NEB to Adjust National Dues within Specific Limits, and going to One Member, One Vote. These will move us forward with long overdue updates. They will materially help attract desperately needed new members, offer them choices which they clearly want, give every member the right to vote on NARFE issues, and permit agile, timely action on National Dues if called for by unexpected revenue fluctuation (e.g. a minor increase of no more than 33 cents a month in a 2-year period). The member-requested Strategic Plan—with input from across NARFE—is at [narfe.org](http://narfe.org). It has more details and hard

evidence backing up these essential reforms. Also, as reported in the May 2016 *NARFE Magazine*, I am privileged to serve you and all of NARFE. I ask for your continued support. As always I welcome your constructive comments on keeping NARFE strong.

Legislative advocacy is the backbone of NARFE's mission. Please tell NARFE HQs Legislative Staff about all contacts made with a member of Congress, candidate for Congress, or senior congressional staff member. This includes BOTH House and Senate related ones. These can be in one-on-one meetings, and/or in bigger gatherings. They can be at members' offices, town hall meetings, campaign stops, chapter and federation meetings, fairs, parades and picnics. Every one is an opportunity to represent NARFE and/or simply to note what you saw and heard relating to civilian Federal employees and retirees. Each contact should be reported via email, or at least via phone, to NARFE's Legislative Staff if email is problematic. This vital grassroots/constituent input greatly helps that Staff know views and positions and push the right buttons for outcomes we want. Over-reporting is better than not reporting. After all, legislation IS a contact sport.

I'll close with commercials. Be sure to donate generously to NARFE-PAC. We need money to get into fundraisers and other events. This gives increased attention to NARFE's legislative agenda since...legislation IS a contact sport. Next, for just \$9.95 you can get the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of NARFE's *Question and Answer Book*. See p. 20 of the July *NARFE Magazine*. This compilation of most frequently asked questions by federal annuitants and employees is invaluable. It is a must-have for leaders, i.e. Service Officers and others. Lastly, NARFE has officially joined 30+ organizations which participate in and sponsor Walk to End Alzheimer's events. As you recruit new blood into NARFE and reach out to our longtime members highlight NARFE's strong contributions to Alzheimer's research and "Walk" events. Request donations from members. Sadly, all will be impacted by this disease--firsthand, or through others. ●●



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

Eleanor Kaul

## FEEA UPDATE

NARFE partnered with the Federal Employee and Education Assistance (FEEA) fund, a private, nonprofit 501©3 to establish the NARFE-FEEA Scholarship Program. Children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and stepchildren of NARFE members are eligible to apply for a \$1,000 scholarship awarded to high school seniors. Each Region receives six (6) scholarships. Applications for 2016 are in evaluation phase. Winners will be announced in August and the scholarship money will be paid. Winners will be listed on [scholarship@narfe.org](mailto:scholarship@narfe.org).

The 2017 scholarship information will be in February *narfe* magazine and online at the NARFE website. **Now is the time to start the application process.** For additional information, obtain a copy of the newly updated "Guide to NARFE Annual Scholarship Award Program" (F-105). Send an email to [scholarship@narfe.org](mailto:scholarship@narfe.org) or call Headquarters. The deadline for submission is in late April 2017.

FEEA also has a disaster fund for NARFE members. An award can be up to \$500 and the money does not have to be repaid. Donation information is in the magazine or at the NARFE website.

Tax-deductible donations can be made by check payable to NARFE/FEEA and mailed to:

FEEA  
 3333 S, Wadsworth Blvd., Suite 300  
 Lakewood, CO 80227 ••

## ACTION IN RENO

*Ted Jensen, Immediate Past President*  
*Maryland Federation*

My dad used to say, "When all's said and done, there's more said than done." We can't afford to let that be the case at the National Convention in Reno. Unfortunately, there is ample historical precedent for

such an outcome. Let's set a new precedent this time. There are many good proposals to address, but I am focusing here only on the three National Executive Board (NEB) resolutions flowing from the Strategic Planning process.

#16-07 would authorize the NEB to make small adjustments to our dues between conventions to prevent a budget crisis. #16-06 would make chapter membership optional instead of mandatory. #16-24 would establish a new voting system, giving each NARFE member an individual vote. Millions of words have already been written and spoken on this topic, and there has been plenty of time for in-depth consideration of these ideas. To all this, I would only add a few personal thoughts as one who has been engaged in the process for a long time as a Chapter leader, a Federation leader, a member of the Future of NARFE Committee, and a member of the Strategic Planning Committee, but mostly as a member who cares about our organization and wants to see it stick around for a long time. Short version, I think what we need to do to make that happen is to trust and learn.

The three resolutions have been suggested by the Strategic Planning Committee, an experienced group representing all levels of the organization and all regions. These resolutions were then tested and refined and perfected by the Strategic Planning Team, a dedicated, talented small team of NARFE leaders working with professional consultants. Finally, they were debated and improved and given the full blessing of the NEB, the officers we elected to guide NARFE. Now I know that some of us are wary of any ideas generated by Headquarters, but these proposals did not just pop full blown from the head of someone in Alexandria. They started with a pretty broad based group and have survived a tough review process, with plenty of chances along the way for anyone interested to shoot them down or offer a better idea. Personally, I think it is time we trust the intentions and the many, many hours of hard work that have gotten us to this point.

When we speak of trust, I think that should apply to a lot of other people who care about NARFE and want the best for the organization. We need to trust our Chapter and Federation leaders to act in the best interests of NARFE to ensure its future, even if that

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future looks different in some ways. We need to trust these key leaders to guide and inform our members before and during the Convention. It is not easy to follow the action at our conventions, but the old hands can help us simplify and clarify the proceedings so we can make informed decisions on the important stuff and not get tangled up in procedural knots and go back home frustrated.

Most importantly, we need to trust all our members to support our leadership team, to imagine a different future, and to continue to support NARFE through whatever transitions are necessary. If we don't have this support, as they say in New Jersey, forget about it. There is a perhaps hard part of this for some of us who are very active volunteer leaders, and that is trusting and engaging the vast majority of our loyal members who don't attend our meetings. They have the same interests and skills as our active volunteers, but we don't know them. I know some are uncomfortable with the idea of these members voting under the proposed one-member-one-vote system, thinking chapter leaders and regular attendees are better informed than less active members. My own view is that we salute our active members for everything they do, and we trust our less active members to care about NARFE and take advantage of the many ways available to be well informed. I think the proposed voting changes would tend to encourage more members to learn about and engage in NARFE's business. If we are really a member-driven organization, we should try to engage more members. If it turns out that some members just want to pay their dues and read *narfe* Magazine, we are happy to have them and urge them to sign up their fellow Feds.

Our other big challenge is to learn new tricks. That's going to be hard for us, but if we don't.....

Here are some things I think we need to learn.

1. How to operate effectively in a rapidly changing world. We don't really have a choice on this one. The good news is that we are already making progress especially with the use of new technology and targeted marketing and recruiting. (I am still figuring out the new version of Word as I draft this, but the point is, I'm trying.)

2. How to operate with fewer chapters. During my four-year term as Federation President, I had to close one of our oldest chapters. I spent many hours studying the procedures and getting advice on how to do it right. I even made copious notes on how to do it, just in case we had to do it again. That was hardly necessary. Our current president has already had plenty of experience with merging and closing chapters, with several more on the brink. The chapter I had to close had about 500 members and money in the bank, but no one willing to take on leadership responsibilities. That's the story across the country. The proposed change to optional chapter membership is not causing this trend, but is an acknowledgement that there are just a lot of members and prospective members who are not interested in joining chapters for whatever reasons.

My final thought is that our members and mission are what's important, not our organizational chart or our book of procedures. NARFE has stayed focused on our mission since 1921 and has overcome many obstacles. We can keep on doing that if we are willing to make some adjustments. The three proposals before us are a good start and I hope we will support them in Reno.

These ideas are not radical but would bring NARFE more in line with other successful organizations. I love the mantra of our son's unit in Army Basic Training, ALWAYS FORWARD! ●●



*Pat Farmer*  
*Secretary*

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Pat Farmer

It has been a busy summer NARFE-wise. Here are some of the NARFE/MD activities that have kept me out of the intense summer heat: installing the Aspen Hill Chapter 1882 officers; drafting the call letter and preparations for the Federation Training for National Convention in Reno; updating and sending out to

*(continued on page 10)*

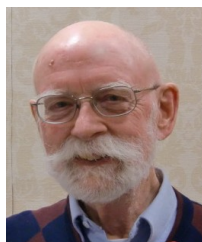
District 8 candidates and Senate candidates an invitation, which reflects our partnership with AARP/MD in the Sept. 17 Forum; doing the initial editing of the Fall 2016 Federation Newsletter; and other administrative duties.

I am receiving the officer rosters (F-7s) when chapters update their officers online in the Headquarters OAM. If you have had a change in officers in your chapter, please make sure that the OAM reflects these changes in your leadership. This will be extremely helpful to me when I compile the Federation Directory for our NARFE/MD Board meeting scheduled for Sept. 29 at the Comfort Inn in Bowie.

In my role as NARFE/MD representative on the Board of the Maryland Gerontological Association and as the MGA Membership Chair, I recently drafted a strategic action plan for MGA membership, which will be presented to the MGA Board. ●●



Saj Durrani



John Stackpole

## RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

*Saj Durrani and John Stackpole, Co-Chairs*

As reported in the Newsletter's Spring Issue, the Resolutions Committee (ResCom) had received two Resolutions by the deadline of March 3, 2016, both of which dealt with Social Security issues. After making minor editorial changes in one of the resolutions, the ResCom forwarded both resolutions to the Federation's Board with a "Recommendation to Adopt." The Board adopted both Resolutions at its meeting on May 2, 2016, and they have been included in the Resolutions Book, which will be voted upon at the National Convention in Reno in August.

As a recap, Resolution MF-16.01 proposed that NARFE support raising the cap on Social Security benefits for those earning above a certain income

level, and also raising the cap on withholdings in order to ensure that the Social Security Trust Fund continues to have adequate resources. Resolution MF-16.02 proposed that NARFE support doubling the Social Security benefits over a certain period of time. Neither of us will be going to Reno, but Delegates from the Chapters that initiated the two Resolutions (Linda Cohen and Paul Schwartz from Chapter 1892, and Dick Strombotne from Chapter 258) will be there to answer questions and clarify any misunderstandings that are inevitable in large assemblies. **Hopefully, both Resolutions will be adopted and National HQ will include the proposed actions in its agenda for the future.**

With that, let us get ready for the next round of Resolutions! Please don't hesitate to contact one of us if you have questions about the procedures. ●●

## WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S

NARFE has created a Walk to End Alzheimer's® National Team to raise funds for the 600 Walks across the country and in return will earn national recognition benefits. NARFE's logo will appear on all Walk signage across the country, creating a great opportunity for NARFE recruitment through participation. Unlike monies raised for Alzheimer's research through our national goal, funds from Walks will remain in local communities to help the Alzheimer's Association provide advance care, support and research efforts to the families of the 5.4 million Americans living with this horrific disease; and WILL NOT be credited to our national goal.

Team HOPE, led by Kathy Siggins, will participate in its 23<sup>rd</sup> Western Maryland Walk on October 16 in Frederick, as a proud member of NARFE's newly created Walk to End Alzheimer's® National Team. Anyone wishing to join Kathy's team or create their own national team can do so by visiting: [http://act.alz.org/site/TR?company\\_id=116140&pg=national\\_company&pw\\_id=9721](http://act.alz.org/site/TR?company_id=116140&pg=national_company&pw_id=9721).

Kathy's husband, JD Brooks, an active member of NARFE Chapter 409, members of her family and friends, will join her in this effort.

## HOWARD DEW NAMED 2016 SERVICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR



President Dan McGrath congratulates Chapter 1363 Bay Area's Service Officer Howard Dew on being named the Maryland Federation Service Officer of the Year.

NARFE/MD President Dan McGrath presented a plaque to Howard Dew, Chapter 1363 Bay Area Service Officer, in honor of his selection as 2016 Service Officer of the Year for the Maryland Federation. The ceremony took place June 24 at the chapter's 42<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Luncheon in Shady Side.

Howard Dew joined NARFE in 2010, while still a federal employee. Employed by NASA/Goddard

Space Flight Center from 1979 through December 2011, he retired with 36 years of federal and military service.

As an electrical engineer, Howard worked in the Satellite Ground System at Goddard for command and control satellites and receipt and storage of satellite telemetry.

As a veteran, he served on active duty in the US Army from 1974 to 1978 and in the Army Reserves from 1978 till 1988.

At the Bay Area Chapter May meeting, Howard presented "If You Become Incapacitated or Pass On, Does Your Family Know What to Do?" He included helpful handouts and assisted members in locating pertinent information. The chapter members present said that this was the most important presentation they had attended. Other chapters have requested Howard to make this presentation.

Since that time, Howard has assisted several members' families with making contact with the benefits departments of OPM and Social Security, as well as advised on needed paperwork, member numbers, and offered other helpful suggestions.

In presenting the Service Officer of the Year plaque, President McGrath thanked Howard Dew for his government service and his outstanding efforts on behalf of his chapter. ●●

## FINANCIAL

revenues (14.8 percent) came from eNARFE Chapter 2363 members who live in Maryland and joined, renewed, or rejoined from December 2015 to May 2016.

Expenditures for the first half of 2016 totaled \$37,440. Almost \$13,000 was for the State and Federal Legislation Committees, primarily for the two Congressional candidates forums held in March and April before the April 26 Maryland Primary election. Almost \$8,600 was spent on the Mini-Convention. This expense was offset in part by the \$3,550 in

*(continued on page 12)*



Dick Strombotne

*Dick Strombotne*  
*Treasurer*

### TREASURER'S REPORT

In the first half of 2016, Maryland NARFE had revenues of \$30,630. More than \$26,000 of this was from the Ten-percent Fund pass-through from NARFE headquarters. Most of the rest included \$3,550 paid by vendors at the Mini-Convention held on May 2 and 3. A significant share of the Ten-percent Fund



revenues from vendors noted above. (Another vendor belatedly paid \$400 in July.) Assistance to chapters from Maryland NARFE that had members who attended the Region II Training Conference in early April amounted to slightly more than \$6,600. Expenses for the February Board meeting and for the Executive Committee were each approximately \$3,670. Lesser amounts were spent for the usual budget areas of general administration, state

convention, national convention, member recruitment, and newsletter.

The budget deficit for the first half of 2016 was somewhat less than \$7,000. Assets at the end of June were \$86,605 including \$61,794 in the checking and savings accounts, and the remainder in CDs. ●●

# AROUND THE FEDERATION

## BAY AREA CHAPTER CELEBRATES 42 YEARS

As we ended our momentous year with our individual NARFE Chapters (and we do love personally connecting with our NARFE colleagues instead of just electronically), please permit me to share how my Bay Area Chapter 1363 President Jo Anne Groves and members celebrated the

chapter's 42<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary. At our luncheon celebration June 24 in Shady Side, we were fortunate to have with us Federation President Dan McGrath and Secretary Patricia Farmer. President McGrath swore in the newly elected officers.

We incorporated the officers' and members' significant talents into Indian Classical Kathak dances. Above and on the next page are two presentations based on the epic *Mahabharata* with handsome Lord Krishna, depicted by Dan McGrath, Lowell Martin and Steve Groom, and the beautiful Radha and Gopis, danced by Jo Anne Groves, Joy Evans and Dr. Shakuntla Mahajan.



L-R: Dr. Sudha Haley (FLC Chair), Lowell Martin (Secretary Chapter 1363), Federation President Dan McGrath, Steve Groom (Vice President Chapter 1363), Jo Anne Groves (President Chapter 1363), Joy Evans (Treasurer Chapter 1363) and Dr. Shakuntla Mahajan (CDL and TUF Leader).

*Provided by Sudha Haley, PH.D, NARFE/MD Federal Legislative Committee Chair and member of Chapter 1363.*

*(continued on page 13)*





"From Our Souls to Yours We Cherish  
You Our NARFE Colleagues...NAMASTE"

*(continuation of Chapter 1363  
Anniversary Activities.)*

### HAGERSTOWN CHAPTER 306:

Skycroft Conference Center & Retreat, Middletown, Maryland, was the lovely location for Chapter 306's summer luncheon/meeting, June 10, 2016. After Hagerstown NARFE Chapter 306 members enjoyed a superb lunch, the group was addressed by President of the Maryland Federation of NARFE Chapters Dan McGrath. Acknowledgement and credit was given, by Mr. McGrath, to the membership for its willingness and ability to pull together resources and who supplied chapter leadership for the past year. Mr. McGrath also assumed the installation duties as he installed our newly elected officers for 2016-2018.



*Submitted by: Dorothy Burhman,  
Chapter 306 Hagerstown*

Pictured seated L-R: MD Federation President, Dan McGrath;  
Hagerstown Chapter 306 President, Ed Reed. Standing L-R: Assistant Secretary, Barb  
Ware; Chapter Vice President Russell Wingerd; and Treasurer, Pandi Reed. Not pictured  
Secretary, Dan Laspe.

## OCEAN AREA CHAPTER 2274

Members of Ocean Area Chapter 2274 cover the NARFE recruitment table June 6, 2016 at the National Rural Letter Carriers Convention at the Grand Hotel in Ocean City.



L-R: Chapter President Eleanor Kaul; Jeanne Walsh and Dorothy Sarter.  
Not pictured: Steve Habeger and Clark Prichard.

## CHAPTER 409



Many of the members of the team are members of Kathy's family and friends. Kathy is holding the purple flower standing in the first row. Her husband, first left, last row, is JD Brooks an active member of Chapter 409. Kathy has been supporting Alzheimer's for many years. She is working diligently to legislate an Alzheimer's semi-postal stamp. Her many efforts to financially support Alzheimer's includes Team Hope in the Walk to End Alzheimer's.

(See "Walk to End Alzheimer's" on page 10.)

Team Hope recruited by Kathy Siggins, Legislative Director, Chapter 409.



## LEISURE WORLD CHAPTER 1143



Leisure World Chapter 1143 participated in the Independence Day parade at Leisure World for the second year in a row. Last year, Joe Cook and John Moens marched with handwritten signs. THIS YEAR, around eight members marched under the chapter's new banner accompanied by the dancers and drummers of the National Collegiate Preparatory School. Treasurer Maureen Ross arranged this with her daughter, the CEO and founder of the school, which provided the music director, bus, fuel and band. The residents heard the 1143 parade participants coming and rocked to the beat. Chapter 1143 plans to have the musical group back for the 50th Anniversary. President John Moens' only concern was the cost of feeding the group lunch BUT one anonymous donor wrote a check to cover it. The parade was one of several activities in the Chapter's plan to publicize NARFE.

*Submitted by: John Moens, President Chapter 1143; and photo by Maureen Ross, Chapter 1143..*



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**Maryland Federation of Chapters – Chartered April 5, 1956**  
**Maryland Federation Newsletter**

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***CALENDAR OF EVENTS***

**2016**

Aug. 28-Sept. 1	National Convention, Reno, Nevada
September 17	District 8 Congressional & Senate Forums, Germantown, Md.
September 29	Federation Board Meeting, Bowie, Md.
October 28	Federation Training Day, Bowie, Md.
November 14	Rep. Van Hollen's FEHB Forum, 9 a.m., Holiday Park Senior Center, Wheaton, Md.
November 21	Newsletter Deadline-Winter Edition
November 21	Rep. Van Hollen's FEHB Forum, 7 p.m., Executive Office Bg., Rockville, Md.

**2017**

TBA	USM Legislative Forum, Annapolis, Md.
February 7	Federation Board Meeting, Bowie, Md.
March 7	Newsletter Deadline - Spring Edition
March 12-15	National Legislative Training
March 15	NARFE Day on Capitol Hill