



MARYLAND FEDERATION

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2016



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Dan McGrath

With winter we find the Chair for our 43rd Biennial State Convention, First Vice President Gary Roundtree, shifting into high gear to ready us for this event scheduled to be held in Ocean City, at the Holiday Inn Oceanfront April 30 to May 2, 2017. We will be receiving more details with the Convention Call Letter planned for issuance around mid-December.

One of the most important activities that occurs at our State Convention will be the election of Federation Officers who will serve for the next two years. With that in mind the Chair of the Federation's Nominating Committee, Marty Strombotne, will shortly be sending out the Call for nominations. I encourage all NARFE members in the Maryland Federation to give consideration to submitting their name or that of another member, with their permission, for one of our elected positions.

Another very important activity that hopefully we can address at the 2017 State Convention would be resolutions to bring Federation bylaws and other governing documents at the Federation level into conformance with resolutions passed at the 2016 National Convention in Reno. This, of course, is dependent on National's issuance of revised National bylaws, as well as suggested formats for Federation bylaws and other documents. If the needed pre-work can be accomplished by NARFE National and if the Federation's Resolutions Committee can draft the required resolution(s) by the end of January we should be able to present our proposal(s) for fine tuning at our February 7, 2017 Board Meeting and have everything ready for a final vote at the convention. This would then set the stage for the chapters to make any needed revisions to their bylaws following our Ocean City Convention.

Looking back on the last two years with a little more than four months to go, we have more than achieved our goals for most of what the Federation set out to accomplish. This has put us in a better position to deal with changes that have and are happening in Washington (at the White House and on Capitol Hill) and in Annapolis (in the Governor's Mansion and Legislature).

With regard to membership, while our recruiting, like the rest of NARFE, has not been up to what we would like, the extraordinary efforts of our membership

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Federation Directory

Executive Committee

President	Dan McGrath	410-641-5570	Mcgrathsop@aol.com
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2nd Vice President, Membership Director	Jo Anne Groves	410-867-2207	jo.a.groves@gmail.com
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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	pkysyanks@aol.com
Webmaster	Morse Solomon		narfemdfed@gmail.com
Social Media Coordinator (Facebook)	Elroy Thomas		eit385@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	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	2166	Eastern Baltimore Area	Jerry Kerner
1127	Rockville	Jennifer Ramsey	2262	Upper Marlboro	P.A. Jeffries
1143	Leisure World	John Moens	2274	Ocean Area	Eleanor Kaul
1260	Southern P.G. County	Bettie J. Hill	2306	Carroll County	David Pyatt
1363	Bay Area	Jo Anne Groves			
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			

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

team has put Maryland at or near the top in overall retention and recruitment. In this climate, this is something to be thankful for.

In closing, I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and that you are looking forward to the rest of the holiday season that lies before us.

Dan McGrath

LEGISLATIVE



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

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Dr. Gary Roundtree

In Times of Crisis

The election has come and gone for choosing a President of the United States, Senators, Representatives, Governors and State legislators. We the people as members of NARFE must prepare for a new administration and President-elect Donald Trump’s new transitional team to head the government.

When President-elect Donald Trump takes office, this coming January 2017, he will be given immeasurable power of the world’s greatest superpower. But, of course, for true greatness to be realized, it must be tested. President Abraham Lincoln once said, “Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man’s character, give him power.”

Lincoln transformed the nation, touching the lives of millions of citizens whose connection to the federal government heretofore had been limited to their local post office and the occasional contact with a political candidate in election season. Lincoln led the nation through its most harrowing crisis.

Marylanders elected Congressman Chris Van Hollen to the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by retiring Senator Barbara Mikulski; Jamie Raskin for Congressman District 8; former Lt. Governor Anthony

Brown for Congressman District 4; and Congressman Elijah E. Cummings for District 7.

Our NARFE–PAC set a new goal to raise \$1 million for the 114th Congress and that goal has officially been met. Thank you all for your support. A total of \$1.4 million from NARFE members has been contributed to the PAC Fund. This is very significant to the success and visibility of NARFE among current legislators, larger PAC contributions and organizations that promote general interest.

As of this very moment, President-elect Donald Trump and the Republican-controlled Congress are drawing up plans to take on the government bureaucracy they have long railed against by eroding job protections and grinding down benefits that federal workers have received for generations.

Hiring freezes, an end to automatic raises, a green light to fire poor performers, a ban on union business on the government’s dime and less generous pension, these are the contours of the blueprint emerging under Republican control of Washington in January.

The NARFE 2017 Legislative Training Conference is just around the corner. The conference will be held at the Hilton Mark Center in Alexandria, VA, from March 12-15.

Register now online by visiting the conference website at www.narfe.org/legcon2017, or by mailing the registration form in *narfe* magazine.

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

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE (FLC) REPORT

Dr. Sudha Haley

On our path forward, we have laid this framework for your Congressional District Leaders (CDLs), and now we need your input. On October 27, CDLs, Federation Board members, and Chapter representatives met for our Training Day. Your FLC Chair collaborated with NARFE National Grassroots Program Manager, **Molly Checksfield**, to provide all participants with comprehensive Grassroots Best Practices Training. In the afternoon, we followed up in smaller Congressional District groups to brainstorm and develop Guidelines and Policies for your CDLs.

Following are the insights, provided by our leaders and members, which are being presented to you for your comments and questions.

FLC-CDL Goal: To achieve Diversity, Inclusiveness and Innovation among our ranks, and continually provide services to our constituent Chapters and members to preserve and enhance the FLC's Legislative agenda.

CDLs should choose to either serve on the State Legislative Committee (SLC) or the Federal Legislative Committee (FLC), to open a seat for the inclusion of other enthusiastic members. The Federation Board officers will automatically be part of the FLC, but a new member would replace them in their CDL positions, to attain at least two CDLs per District.

CDLs shall commit to attend meetings at least once each quarter in Bowie, or at a designated training location on dates established and provided to all the CDLs at the beginning of each calendar year.

Chapters within each District shall be distributed evenly among the CDLs in that District, and each CDL shall be solely responsible to his/her designated Chapters for: ALL dissemination of FLC minutes; gathering from their chapters' members any federal legislative issues and concerns to be brought to our Lawmakers; forthcoming events with Legislators and

speakers; and any Legislation that needs their immediate attention and participation.

To empower members, CDLs shall provide continued, clear, well-researched input on the Federation's FLC website page, including their activities with their designated District Chapters, Legislators and Legislation. CDLs shall electronically keep the Chair aware of all their website postings.

To generate further awareness and enhance the stature of the NARFE Maryland Federation, CDLs shall, whenever possible, connect to NARFE's coalition partners and local media, keeping the Chair aware of this activity.

On the March 15, 2017 Federation's Crusade to Capitol Hill, and every two years thereafter:

- The FLC's Senator Leaders shall connect with the two Maryland Senators, procure the time for meetings with them, and inform the Chair who will advise all the CDLs.
- The CDLs in each District shall then designate one CDL per District to contact their Congressman's office and establish the meeting time for that day.
- Each CDL shall next inform the FLC Chair of all the meeting times; Congressman or staff with whom they are meeting; and the meeting places.
- The FLC Chair shall disseminate to the Federation Board, NARFE Headquarters, and the rest of the CDLs, the times and locations of all the scheduled appointments with our ten Lawmakers, for our Crusade to Capitol Hill.
- CDLs shall immediately apprise their District-designated Chapter Presidents of this information. ●●





Paul Schwartz
State Legislative Committee Chair

STATE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE (SLC) REPORT

Paul Schwartz

In the last SLC report, I discussed our three-pronged approach to moving our legislative agenda forward as we approach the upcoming 2017 legislative session in January in Annapolis. I am happy to report that our strategy is continuing as we meet with various legislators to garner support for that agenda.

As you may recall, our primary focus is on tax breaks for seniors. By placing more money in the pockets of seniors it is our expectation that the increased spending will benefit not only just the seniors but also the small businesses the seniors frequent and the overall economy of Maryland, as a whole.

Moreover, with the anticipated budget shortfalls for both fiscal years 2017 and 2018, now more than ever is the time to focus on generating revenue through investment rather than just collecting more personal income tax.

For the first time in Maryland's history the number of Marylanders over the age of 50 exceeds the number of students attending our elementary schools. Seniors, especially those over the age of 65, spend their money and do not save for the future because for seniors the future is now.

We expect the tax exemption bills introduced during last year's session to be reintroduced during the 2017 session. As you will also recall, raising the tax exemptions for seniors over the age of 65 from \$1,000 to \$5,000 over a four year period would see an average of between \$300 to \$400 in tax breaks for those seniors.

That amount is viewed by some as insignificant and not worth the loss in tax revenue to the state. That assumption misses the point. In terms of the benefit to the state, the hundreds of thousands of seniors who will be spending that additional income must be multiplied by \$300 to \$400. Further, that tax break

for the seniors must not be looked at as lost tax revenue to the short-term budget but, rather, as additional tax revenue in the form of additional sales tax revenue as well as additional taxes paid by the businesses benefiting from the increased spending.

Remember, other states, such as North Carolina, have found that giving tax breaks to retirees has been more than offset by the revenue, especially sales tax revenue, collected from additional sales. The point: "Trickle up economics," which places more money in the pockets of those who spend it, will stimulate the long-term economy and any negative impact to the short-term budget will be offset by increased sales related revenue.

While our efforts regarding the third prong of garnering legislator support prior to going into the January legislative session is moving along, we must not lose sight of the importance of the second prong of our strategy, which involves member participation.

Those of you who attended the NARFE training session on October 27 participated in a discussion on how best to ensure that our message reaches your legislative representatives. The training included a live skit with SLC members taking on the role of a NARFE member meeting with a legislator and experiencing possible reactions.

Regardless of the manner in which you reach out to your legislator, whether it is in person, via a letter or email, or even a phone call, YOUR VOICE MATTERS. Raising your voice in support of our issues, such as increasing the tax exemption for seniors over the age of 65, is critical to the success we hope to achieve as we continue our efforts.

To access the State Legislative Committee homepage and access sample letters and other relative information, please use the following link:

www.mdnarfe.org/the-maryland-federation/committees/legislative-state/

The link will provide you direct access to all of the many documents that serve as the basis of our state legislative program.

Contacting Your Maryland Legislators: To find out who represents you in the Maryland State Legislature go to www.mlis.state.md.us. Under **Contact Your**

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Legislators, click on **Finding your legislators using a street address or Zip code**. Fill in the form with your address and Zip+4 Zip code. You will learn your legislative election district, your Congressional district, and the names of elected officials. Click on each name for a picture and background information. Election District maps may be accessed at the same site.

On a different topic, for those interested, the United Seniors of Maryland Legislative Forum is scheduled for January 25, 2017 at the Miller Senate Building, 11 Bladen Street, Annapolis, from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. ●●

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## Maryland Federation Federal Legislative Committee Grassroots Advocacy

Dr. Sudha Haley

Our NARFE Champion **Minority Whip District 5 Congressman Steny Hoyer** convened a meeting to discuss NARFE issues and pledge his steadfast support for our legislative priorities.

Attending were National President Richard Thissen, Maryland Federation First Vice President Dr. Gary Roundtree, NARFE/MD Legislative Chair Dr. Sudha Haley accompanied by CDL Dr. Sambhu Banik, NARFE/MD Service Award recipient Howard Dew, Congressional District 5 Chapter Presidents Ed Rice and Ron Bush and members, Melinda Scott, Dr. Kenneth Haley and Promila Banik.

NARFE partnered with AARP in our final Forum focusing on Congressional District 8 and Maryland Senate Candidates, and their effective responses to our legislative challenges.

At the Forum, active duty Engineer, recipient of two Bronze Stars for Outstanding Leadership in Iraq and Afghanistan, Major Kris Bhagwat Haley, introduced **Senatorial-candidate Chris Van Hollen (now Senator-elect)**. The Forum Moderator was National Region II Vice President Evelyn Kirby. Kathy Siggins served as Forum Leader and Coordinator for Volunteers. We were also privileged to have the

participation of **District 8 Congressional candidate-elect Jamie Raskin (now Congressman-elect)**.



L-R: Dr. Gary Roundtree, Ed Rice, Ron Bush, Rick Thissen, Promila Banik, Congressman Steny Hoyer, Dr. Sudha Haley, Dr. Sambhu Banik, Melinda Scott, Dr. Kenneth Haley and Howard Dew.



District 8 Congressman-elect Jamie Raskin



L-R: Senator-elect Chris Van Hollen and Major Kris Bhagwat Haley

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I have been the Federation Newsletter Editor for over 7 years now and feel I have put in my time. In past newsletters I have requested a replacement and have had no luck in getting someone to step in for me. I would like to again request an individual to replace me in this task. If you could request a replacement in your newsletters, I would greatly appreciate your doing so. I can be reached at 301-253-4740 if you have someone interested in this task. I can provide information on what this entails and be happy to help anyone who volunteers. *Linda Adams*

MEMBERSHIP



Jo Anne Groves
2nd Vice President
Membership Director

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Jo Anne Groves

During the recent Federation training, chapter members Jim Duls and Eleanor Kaul spoke on the recent very successful Postal Conventions they attended, representing the Maryland Federation. They were invited to speak to the conventions and shared their good ideas for recruiting with us.

We were very fortunate to have National President Thissen join us for the membership breakout session. He answered our many questions raised due to the changes in membership. Some of the issues covered were:

- Until new materials can be developed and distributed, existing applications will continue to be used.
- Any application received without a local chapter designation will be assigned as a national member. This requires all new members to first join NARFE before being offered the option of chapter membership within a welcome letter.
- In the interim period, we will honor chapter requests, understanding that this was a choice of the new member.
- New welcome letters for new members and reinstates are being developed.
- Provide non-chapter affiliates with information on nearest local chapter plus the 800 number at HQ to obtain more information or to join.
- The F-135 is being redesigned. Prospect will simply be asked if he/she would like to join NARFE.
- Updates being made to renewal notices, reinstatement, gift memberships.

- All members will continue to receive all benefits.
- Federations will continue to be provided Ten Percent Funds for Every member who resides within that federation and/or is a member of a chapter within that federation.
- The National Division has replaced the e-Division. National Division members may be emailed only for the purpose of communicating federation legislative activity or federation-wide events.

Don't forget the NARFE membership recruitment initiative is in effect until December 31. Here's your chance to earn some money and gain NARFE some new members. ●●



Dick Strombotne, Chair
Membership Retention Committee

MEMBERSHIP RETENTION REPORT

Dick Strombotne

The focus of this report is on national members in NARFE. These members were members of eNARFE Chapter 2363 prior to the decision by the delegates at the National Convention to adopt One Member - One Vote and the subsequent decision by the NEB to make the conversion of membership.

The number of national members has increased by a strong 7.4% to 33,196 since 2015. They are 16.4% of total NARFE members. In Maryland, there are 2,747 national members compared to 12,264 chapter members. Note that this is a drop of 6.4% in the number of chapter members since 2015.

The number of NARFE members who are not national members is now 169,189. At the end of 2015 the number was 181,063.

The number of AFE members (current federal employee members) is notable. They constitute 11.5% of all NARFE members, 14% of chapter members in Maryland, and 16.8% of national

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members. Clearly, national membership is an attractive option for current federal employees.

The monthly regional membership reports, from which the above data are drawn, include an interesting statistic concerning the ratio of renewing members after they have been dropped for non-payment of dues. For Maryland, for the past ten

months through October, this ratio is 41.7%. For comparison, the ratio for NARFE excluding both national members and the Maryland Federation is 35.2%. The larger ratio for Maryland reflects the success of the monthly lapsed members mailing.

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REPORTS, NEWS, EVENTS AND INFORMATION



Evelyn Kirby

Evelyn Kirby
Region II Vice President

REGION II UPDATE

We all felt the earth move with the 2016 Presidential Elections telling us that in January we will have a single Political Party in charge of Capitol Hill and the White House. As dedicated NARFE members, please be ready to respond to what is expected to be many legislative proposals and actions affecting federal civilian employees and retirees. If you don't stand up for your interests, who will? Remember that when no one speaks up, or only a few do, those proposing changes think no one objects.

For the present, know that NARFE continues to lobby strongly for relief for those not held harmless from the latest Medicare Part B increases, Postal Reform that does not set precedent by taking back promises to retirees, ways to lessen exorbitant long term care insurance premium hikes, and remedies for those negatively impacted by Windfall Elimination Provisions (WEP).

To recap some outcomes re the 2015-2016 election cycle, NARFE-PAC disbursed \$677,000 to 216 congressional candidates. Of those, 192 won, 17 lost, two are still undecided, one retired, one died, one dropped out and two decided to run for another office after the NARFE-PAC contribution was made.

NARFE-PAC also contributed \$140,000 to party committees this cycle, for a giving total of \$817,000, almost 85 percent more than as disbursed last cycle. NARFE-PAC focused on building and strengthening relationships. We sent more than 85 different NARFE members to 65 in-district fundraisers, more than doubling efforts in the past cycle. NARFE Officers and legislative staff also were able to attend more fundraisers in Washington, D.C., further building relationships with several congressional allies.

There were earth-moving times at the Reno National Convention last August as well. I refer chiefly to delegates' decisions to have NARFE be an optional chapter membership association and to have a one member one vote system of governance. Of critical importance now is the requirement for both Federations and Chapters to conform their bylaws at the earliest opportunities to the just revised National bylaws. Helpful guidance on this important necessary step will be issued soon from HQ and should be acted on quickly. An ideal time for changes to be voted upon by members is at upcoming Federation Conventions and in upcoming Chapter meetings. Of course, some time is needed for drafting revisions to be in synch with the National bylaws. Time is also needed for circulating proposed updates and for voting on them by members. All Federation and Chapter bylaw changes require HQ approval. We have over 215,000 members to serve and support. Every single one enjoys all the privileges of membership, which include service and support from our National Office, and from across NARFE.

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Revised membership materials, including applications, and official bylaws and standing rules changed because of Reno National Convention decisions will soon be available. Keep your eye on narfe.org, where they will appear first. Also, many other pieces of guidance that must reflect the Reno actions will be updated as well, e.g. the F-10, which is the GO TO guidance for Chapter and Federation Officers. Use narfe.org to find - and print, if desired - the most recently issued versions of NARFE materials.

I have issued Informal Highlights of discussions and decisions at the November 15-18 National Executive Board to Region II Federation Presidents, for their information and relay to leaders in their areas. Please see that material for many items and details relating to NARFE's current and coming activities. There is much afoot!

Applause to MD's recruiters. Remember that for signing u new members between September1 and December 31, NARFE HQ will provide recruiters \$10 for each new member and the MD Federation will provide an additional \$10 for each new members. In Maryland, 21 percent of members are on dues withholding while NARFE-wide that total is 28 percent. Oklahoma is the state with the highest percentage at 49 percent, with North Dakota and Kansas tied for second and third at 46 percent. Virginia is the only state with fewer than Maryland at 19.8 percent. Encouraging continuing members and recruits to opt for dues withholding is a good thing. Those who opt for that pay a few dollars less per year and do not have to think about re-upping NARFE membership. It keeps on giving them valuable benefits! In this Holiday Season, shine by making NARFE membership gifts to relatives, friends, and neighbors and sign up other prospects too. As you do, herald the benefits of dues withholding.

I wish all the happiest and healthiest holidays, and great prospects for 2017. Take care and rest up. The New Year should be lively. ●●



Pat Farmer

Pat Farmer
Secretary

SECRETARY'S REPORT

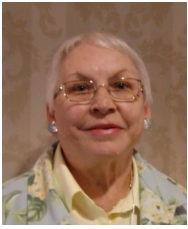
By now, chapters have had elections of new officers, and I hope your F-7s (Officer Rosters) are now up-to-date with the names and associated information for each chapter officer. If not, Chapter Presidents please make sure your chapter's F-7 is updated by the beginning of 2017. If you have any questions or need help with these updates, please let me know. I will need the most up-to-date officer information to prepare the new Federation Directory for the February Board Meeting.

Fall has kept me busy with Call Letters to NARFE/MD's Fall Board Meeting and Training Day and attendance at these meetings, as well as passing on information concerning the recent National Executive Board meeting and where to find the new National Bylaws.

Soon it will be time for me to send out the Call Letter for the Maryland Federation 2017 Convention in Ocean City, which will culminate with the installation of new officers for the next two years.

I continue to serve as the NARFE/MD representative to the Maryland Gerontological Association (MGA) Board of Directors, specifically as the Membership Chair. In support of the strategic plan for membership, which I drafted, I have drafted a survey for members to obtain their feedback on the annual conference, networking breakfasts, forums, social media, website and their likes and dislikes about the organization. I also plan to develop a survey for non-members. MGA has a large database of people who attend events but are not members. We want to get their feedback as well and encourage them to become members.

Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for 2017! ●●



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

Eleanor Kaul

FEEA UPDATE

NARFE partnered with Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund (FEEA), a private, nonprofit 501c3 to establish the NARFE-FEEA Fund 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. Winners are listed on scholarship@narfe.org.

A new online scholarship application procedure is being implemented by FEEA. The scholarship application will no longer appear in the *narfe* magazine. Also, the link to the F-105, "Guide to NARFE Annual Scholarship Award Program," is being removed from the HQ website until updated information is received and incorporated. The Maryland Federation will provide additional information and instructions as soon as received.

2016 NARFE Maryland Scholarship winners are:

- Courtney Broadnax, of Silver Spring, Md., Indiana University Bloomington, daughter of Carole Broadnax, Silver Spring, Chapter 1888 White Oak
- Andrew Brown, of Rockville, Md., University of Maryland College Park, grandson of Richard Meyer, Silver Spring, Chapter 1888 White Oak
- Tae Vaughn Buie, of Edgewood, Md., Widener University, grandson of Emery Thompson Sr., Abingdon, Md., Chapter 1770 Bel Air

Please support FEEA raffles at Maryland Federation events, which help provide scholarship funds.

FEEA also has a disaster relief 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 *narfe* magazine or at the NARFE website.

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

NARFE Scholarship Awards
c/o FEEA
3333 S. Wadsworth Blvd., Suite 300
Lakewood, CO 80227

Nominations Report

*Martha Strombotne, Ted Jensen, Ron Bowers
Nominating Committee*

Dear Chapter Presidents and Officers:

The Maryland NARFE Federation Nominating Committee needs your help.

*Nominations are being sought for Maryland NARFE Federation Election of Officers to be voted on at our State Convention to be held in Ocean City, Maryland, April 30-May 2, 2017.

*The Maryland Federation Nominating Committee is seeking suggestions for candidates for the following offices: President, 1st Vice-president, 2nd Vice-president, Secretary, and Treasurer.

*Every Chapter has talented, capable members who can serve the two-year term of office. If they are already attending Chapter, Maryland Federation Board and Training Meetings or are a current or past Chapter Officer or Committee Chair, they are more than qualified to run for one of the above listed offices.

Maryland has always conducted a professional Federation over the last 60 years. Let's keep the good work going for another 60! Nominate at least one person from your Chapter to serve a two-year term. There are guidelines and training available throughout the year. Send your questions and nominations to Martha Strombotne, Chair; 310 High Gables Drive #205, Gaithersburg, MD 20878, Phone: 240-632-9881, email: martystrom@comcast.net. If you wish to consult with either: Ted Jensen, tjensen.narfe@gmail.com, 301-845-2088; or Ron Bowers, narferbowers@msn.com, 410-308-0420, feel free to do so. Thank you.

Sincerely, *Your Nominating Committee*

FINANCIAL



Dick Strombotne
Treasurer

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dick Strombotne

This report includes revenues and expenditures for 2016 year to date through November.

Revenues. Revenues are almost \$62,800 and include the deposit of a maturing CD at \$8,554.47 and ten-percent funds of almost \$44,400. About 15% of the ten-percent funds revenue comes from the national membership dues of eNARFE Chapter 2363 members living in Maryland who have joined, rejoined, or renewed since December 2015. Twenty chapters remitted per capita fees totaling \$4,257.50 in November alone.

Expenditures. Expenditures slightly exceed \$63,050. The single largest category was Federal Legislation at a bit more than \$13,787, mostly for the planning and conduct of the two Congressional Candidates forums before the Primary Election in April and the Congressional Candidates forum held on September 17 for Senate candidates and Congressional District 8 candidates. Other major expense categories are National Convention at just over \$9,200, Mini-convention at almost \$8,600, and Chapter Assistance at just over \$6,600. Chapter Assistance was for attendance at the Region II training symposium in York, Pa. The Federation Board meetings and Executive Committee come in at about \$11,650 combined. State Legislation is about \$4,100, Training almost \$5,600. Other expense categories each come in at \$1,200 or less (Administration, Maryland State Convention, Newsletter, and Membership Recruitment.)

Assets. Total assets of the Maryland Federation of Chapters are \$84,621, down \$8,780 from assets at the end of December 2015. Looking ahead, revenues from another month of ten-percent funds payments, projected at \$4,500 or so, and the remaining \$1,850 of per-capita fees from eight chapters will go far to

reduce this deficit even with routine expenses for such items as State Legislation, Newsletter, etc.

Reminder. Please deposit any reimbursement checks from the Maryland Federation of Chapters promptly. If you decline reimbursement, return the check to the Treasurer and inform him about your decision. ●●

EDITORIAL

Meet My Friend Saj - A True American

Paul K. Schwartz

Excerpted from *Paul's View*, [*Montgomery County Sentinel*](#); November 2016

I am proud to call Dr. Sajjad H. Durrani my friend. Saj and I work feverishly on behalf of NARFE, National Active and Retired Federal Employees, to protect the earned benefits of federal employees and retirees and seniors in general!



L-R: Dr. Saj Durrant; Paul Schwartz

Saj immigrated to the United States in 1959 and served in a multitude of impressive positions as an electrical engineer for such companies as General Electric, COMSAT Labs, RCA and Operations Research to name just a few.

He joined NASA in 1974 and served at the Goddard Space Flight Center and at NASA Headquarters. At Goddard he was research and planning manager of the NASCOM Division and was one of the managers of the tracking and data relay satellite system when it was initially deployed. At NASA Headquarters he was chief scientist of the Communications Division, and later managed research programs in the Advanced Systems Office. After retiring from NASA in 1992, he worked with Computer Sciences Corporation on similar projects until 1998. He was a guest lecturer on space communications at the International Space University in Strasbourg, France in 1998, and was a consultant with SUPARCO under the United Nations Development Program in 1999. He served as an IEEE-

(continued on page 12)

USA executive fellow and technical advisor with the Federal Communications Commission in Washington, D.C. from 2000 to 2001, and was a senior technical advisor with the U.S. Department of State during 2004 and 2005.

He has given courses on satellite communications in the U.S. and more than 25 other countries under the AESS Distinguished Lecturers Program. He is a fellow of the Washington Academy of Sciences (not the National Academy of Sciences as he is quick to humbly point out), where he was one of its vice presidents from 2001 to 2004, and again in 2008-2009. He served as president of the D.C. Council of Engineering and Architectural Societies in 2006-07, and also serves on the Industrial Advisory Board of the University of Washington, D.C. Quite an impressive resume, to say the least.

Saj and his late wife, Yasmin, raised a family consisting of his two daughters Zarina and Amina, a son Arif, and a granddaughter Layla, and lives in a beautiful home in Montgomery County, Maryland, about three short miles from my own home.

Aside from his quite impressive resume, Saj's story bears some similarity to the stories of several of our neighbors in Montgomery County, a county comprised of so many members and former members of the federal workforce who found their way to D.C. from other locations. Oh! There might be one slight difference from many of our neighbors. Did I happen to mention that the country from which Saj emigrated is Pakistan and that Saj is a devout Muslim, make that Muslim American?

Saj's father served as a judge in Pakistan and raised twelve children, eleven of which earned a masters or doctorate degree. While being quite traditional regarding morals and family values, Judge Durrani was clearly quite liberal when it came to ensuring his children were well educated. Saj and his family serve as prime examples of the commitment to education and community service.

It is also worth noting that Saj served on the Montgomery County Human Rights Commission for seven years from 2008 to 2015 following in the footsteps of daughter, Zarina, a few years after her term was completed. Community service clearly runs

in this family.

Saj is of Pakistani origin and emigrated from Pakistan to America much like so many other fellow Americans or their parents or grandparents who have emigrated from foreign lands to America seeking greater opportunities and better lives for themselves and their families. Saj is a Muslim; Saj is not a "radical jihadist." He practices his religion and observes Ramadan much like I, as a Jew, observe Yom Kippur and Rosh Hashanah.

Interesting enough, in the more than fifty years since Saj immigrated to America, he has NOT experienced any instances of racism or discrimination. Rather, he has experienced the exact opposite. He has worked with members of all religions and races during his impressive career and, if anything, has felt embraced by his neighbors and co-workers.

By the way, Saj is also the NARFE chapter member who conducts the pledge of allegiance to our flag during local NARFE chapter meetings. He is a pillar of our local community and a leader of NARFE.

The point, then, is quite simple. Saj is a Muslim American who has contributed more to this country than most Americans could ever imagine. How fortunate for America that there was no Muslim ban in 1959. ●●

AROUND THE FEDERATION



After a discussion on the SLC's proposed tax break for seniors in Maryland, Peter Franchot, Maryland Comptroller (center), presented Comptroller's Medallions to SLC member Bob Doyle (left) and SLC Chair Paul Schwartz (right).



L-R: Barb and Charley Ware, members of Hagerstown Chapter 306.

WESTERN MARYLAND WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S

Barb and Charley Ware, members of NARFE's Hagerstown Chapter 306, a two-person team, participating in the Western Maryland WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S, which took place on October 16, 2016. The couple walked as *TEAM* NARFE Hagerstown Chapter 306 and raised \$1,135. Walkers started the WALK at the Frederick (MD) Fairgrounds and strolled on paved sidewalks along Carroll Creek around Baker Park and back to the Fairgrounds. The Wares' team finished in 11th place of NARFE teams and Barb finished in 6th place for raising funds as an individual from NARFE.

OCTOBER TRAINING DAY



L-R: Mary Eill; Richard Cellino; Maria and Art Ritzman, members of the PA Federation attended the training. Maria is past-president of NARFE/PA.



Jo Anne Groves teaching membership ideas during the training day. Love the hair!!

DISTRICT 8 FORUM



Sudha Haley, Ph.D., Chair, Federal Legislative Committee, previews her upcoming workshop.



L-R: Moderator Evelyn Kirby, Region II Vice President and Kathy Siggins, Forum team member and Coordinator for Volunteers .



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

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2017

January 25	USM Legislative Forum, Annapolis, MD (page 6 for info)
February 7	Federation Board Meeting, Bowie, MD
March 7	Newsletter Deadline - Spring Edition
March 12-15	National Legislative Training (page 3 for info)
March 15	NARFE Day on Capitol Hill (page 4 for info)
April 30-May 2	MD Federation 43rd Biennial Convention, Ocean City, MD (President's Message, page 1; Nominating Comm., page 10)
October 3	MD Federation Board Meeting, Bowie, MD
October 23	MD Federation Training Day, Bowie, MD