



MARYLAND FEDERATION

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2018



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

FEDS – LET'S WRITE A NEW HEADLINE

President's Message	1
Federation Directory	2
Legislative Report	3
2017 Profiles in Civil Service on the Hill	4
Profiles Photos on Capitol Hill	5
State Legislative Report	6
NARFE Legislative Action Center	7
Membership Report	8
Region II Update	9
Treasurer's Report	10
Secretary's Report	11
FEEA Update	11
Alzheimer's Info	12
NARFE Bylaws and Resolutions	13
Around the Federation	15
Calendar of Events	16



Dr. Gary Roundtree

I have a dream that one day NARFE will rise up and live out its true meaning and creed. So that, even though we, the federal community, face difficulties of today and tomorrow, such as the House Approves Budget Plan that would cut federal employees' benefits. I still have a dream. (Paraphrase of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. speech)

As we prepare the Maryland Federation to attend our April 30-May 1 **Mini-Conference/Annual Meeting**, and over 1,000 NARFE members will journey across country to attend our **NARFE Premier Training National Conference** in **Jacksonville, Fla.**, (FEDcon18) **Learn-Advocate-Lead**, keep in mind that this is an election year for National Officers and the deadline to vote is June 30, 2018. In accordance with the One Member, One Vote bylaws amendment, candidate statements appear in the March *narfe Magazine* on Page 52 along with national election information.

In the April issue of *narfe*, an announcement of the **Bylaws and Resolutions Committee** report will be published and made available at www.narfe.org/2018Balloting. **Voting for candidates and bylaws** will get underway May 10, when Internet voting will be live. A ballot will be inserted in the June 2018 *narfe Magazine* along with complete voting information. Visit www.narfe.org/2018Balloting.

In closing, please note that we have two exciting, excellent keynote speakers joining us at our Mini-Conference/Annual Meeting April 30-May 1: **Rona E. Kramer, Esq.**, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Aging, and Speaker Pro Tem **Delegate Adrienne Jones**, Maryland General Assembly.

I strongly encourage all Maryland Federation members to attend both Conferences and to urge family and friends to come also.

DR. GARY ROUNDTREE SR.

Federation Directory

Executive Committee

President	Dr. Gary Roundtree	443-929-7045	groundtreesr@hotmail.com
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Past President	Ron Bowers	410-308-0420	narfebowers@msn.com

Contacts

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

Alzheimer's Coordinator	Eleanor Kaul	410-896-4354	eeekaul@comcast.net
Chapter Development	Bernie Goldsborough	301-737-1315	
Fed. Employees Edu. & Asst. Fund Coordinator	Eleanor Kaul	410-896-4354	eeekaul@comcast.net
Federal Legislative Committee Chair	Dr. Bruce Fowler	240-479-0886	bafowler777@gmail.com
NARFE-PAC Coordinator	Dr. Sudha Haley	410-535-4998	Sudhabhagwat2002@yahoo.com
Budget Officer, MD-PAC Treasurer, and USM Representative	Dave Roseman	240-401-6628	dave.roseman@comcast.net
Public Relations Chair	Barry Grier	410-586-9828	forbarryg@aol.com
Resolutions Committee Co-Chairs	Saj Durrani	301-774-4607	sajdurrani@aol.com
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Service Officer	Vacant		
State Legislative Committee Chair	Paul Schwartz	240-838-2200	pkasyanks@aol.com
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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	1522	Susquehanna	Vacant
126	Co-Presidents	Ron Bush	1734	Howard County	Stephen Huza
251	Annapolis	Carla Duls	1747	Greater Bowie/Crofton	Frank Lee
258	Western Montgomery County	Charles Garfinkel	1770	Bel Air	James Wood
306	Hagerstown	Ed Reed	1887	Wheaton/Glenmont	Ron Shansby
409	Frederick	Elinor Abrell	1888	White Oak	Marcia Swanson
410	West-Mar	Donnie Gibson	1892	Aspen Hill	Linda Cohen
422	Laurel	Barbara Hemming	1936	N.W. Baltimore Metro,	Barbara Cuffie
969	St. Mary's County	Joe Luskus	1936	Co-Presidents.....	Bessie Johnson
1127	Rockville	Jennifer Ramsey	1972	Waldorf/La Plata	Neil McGrath
1143	Leisure World	John Moens	2166	Eastern Baltimore Area	Jerry Kerner
1260	Southern P.G. County	Bettie J. Hill	2262	Upper Marlboro	P.A. Jeffries
1363	Bay Area	Jo Anne Groves	2274	Ocean Area	Larry Walton
1372	Tidewater	Gerry Phillips	2306	Carroll County	David Pyatt
1466	Calvert County	Greg Stottlemeyer			
1519	Glen Burnie, Co-Presidents	Don Bender			
1519	Bob Minghini, Sr.			

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LEGISLATIVE

Dr. Sudha Haley
First Vice President / Legislative Director
NARFE-PAC Coordinator

LEGISLATIVE REPORT



Throughout our Federal careers we have worked with Teams, because we know the value of a TEAM - **T**ogether **E**veryone **A**chieves **M**ore. That is why our Federation President **Dr. Gary Roundtree Sr.** and I are meeting with your Chapter members to listen, empower, motivate and nurture every member as part of our wider TEAM. We have had exciting interactions with members at the Chapters we have already met and are eager to join forces with the rest. These visits provide us an insight into how chapter members, who are not likely to participate in Federation Board meetings, Training or Conferences, think and how they value their membership in NARFE and our Federation. The data we gather from these meetings, highlighting what is working in the Federation; identifying and developing initiatives and policies; redefining responsibilities, goals and operating plans; and building a more effective TEAM; will be brought to the Federation's decision makers and also to inform NARFE National leaders.

We are progressing in enhancing our collaboration with coalition partners. The larger our constituency is, the greater the validity of NARFE advocacy and appeal to our lawmakers. As we continue visits and communication to lawmakers on Capitol Hill and provide testimony in Annapolis, we are also delivering opportunities for our Federation members to become knowledgeable about future lawmakers' positions on our issues. Towards this goal, we are collaborating on a **Maryland Governor Candidates' Forum**, before the primary elections, under the leadership of our Federation Secretary **Patricia Farmer** and Business and Professional Women of Maryland (BPW/MD). This **NARFE/BPW Forum** will be held on **Friday, May 4, 2018**, at the Hilton Garden Inn, in **Frederick**, Maryland, **from 6:30 to 9 p.m.** Our Moderator for this Forum will be our State Legislative Committee Chair **Paul Schwartz**. We are soliciting questions for this Forum, so please send them to Paul. Your Federation is also planning a Maryland Governor Candidates' **Forum** with our coalition partner **AARP**, to be held before the general elections. We will provide you with details on this Forum, after the primary elections.

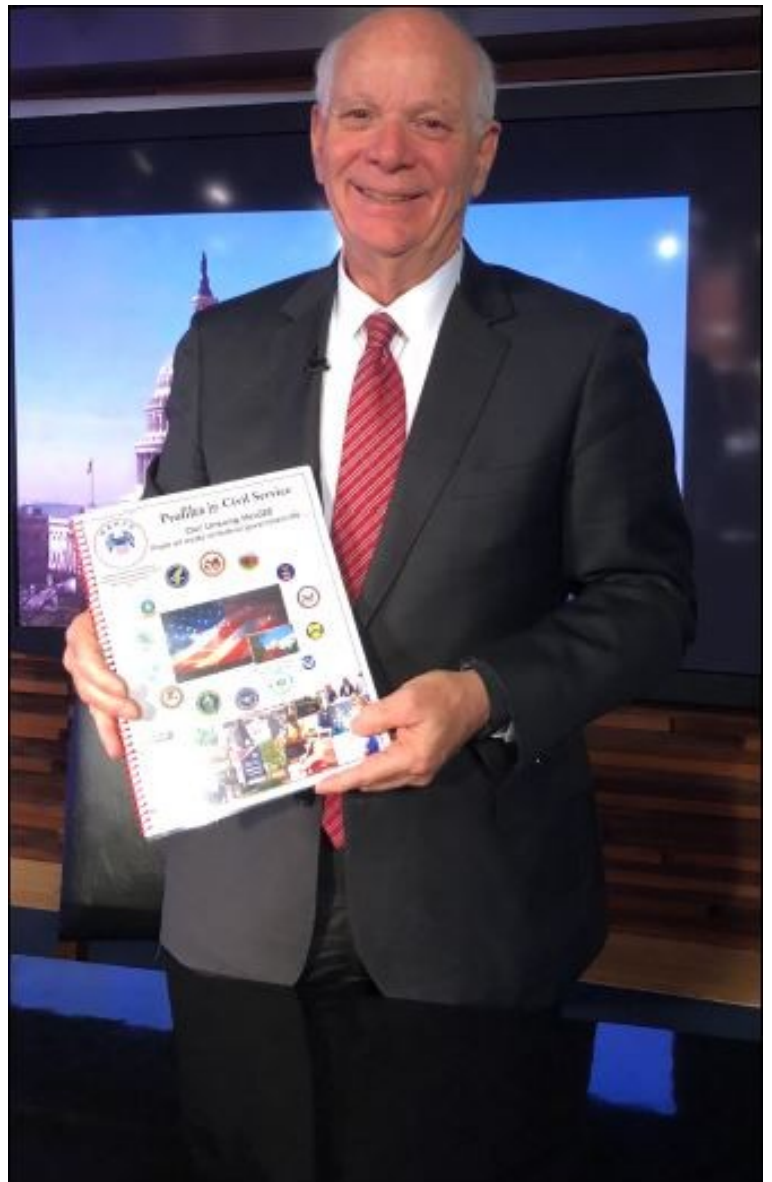
More than 300 million Americans and billions of people around the globe rely on the work of Federal employees. To accentuate our Federation members' influence and achievements, and with the resounding positive feedback from our lawmakers, asking for more Profiles, we are now soliciting your Profiles, under the leadership of our Federal Legislative Committee Chair **Dr. Bruce Fowler**, for the 2018 edition of our **"Profiles in Civil Service."**

"2017 Profiles in Civil Service" on Capitol Hill

Lawmakers urgently requested our Maryland Federation "*Profiles in Civil Service*," highlighting the positive Impact our federal employees have made on the American public, placing country before self-interest. They wanted to share the *Profiles* with their colleagues across the aisle. And, your Federation delivered Profiles, not only to all our 10 lawmakers, including Democratic Whip Congressman Steny **Hoyer**, Senator Ben **Cardin** and Senator Chris **Van Hollen**, but also to NARFE HQ Executive Director, Barbara **Sido**, and staff. Now we are progressing nationwide with Profiles, starting to be published in Colorado and Kansas.



Dr. Sudha Haley with Senator Chris Van Hollen, D-MD



Senator Ben Cardin, D-MD



Congressman John Sarbanes, D-MD 3rd District



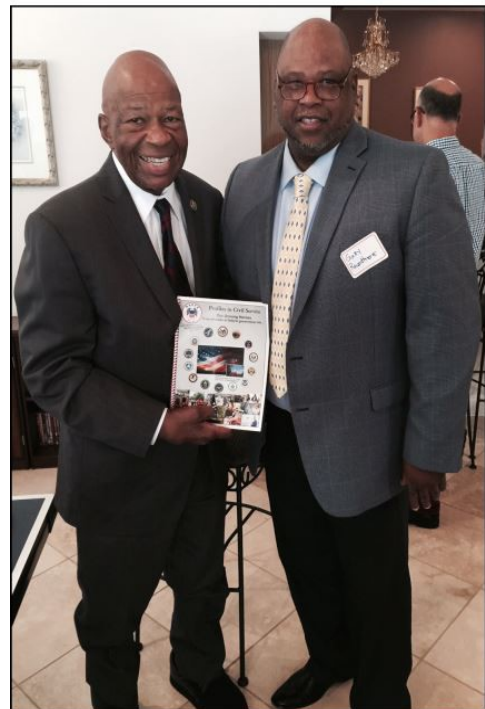
Lin Amendt, Dr. Gary Roundtree, Congressman Jamie Raskin, Dr. Sudha Haley, Ron Shansby and Dr. Bruce Fowler



Dr. Bruce Fowler, NARFE Executive Director Barbara Sido and Dr. Sudha Haley



Congressman John Delaney, D-MD 6th District



Congressman Elijah Cummings, D-MD 7th District and Dr. Gary Roundtree



Paul Schwartz
State Legislative Committee Chair

STATE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE (SLC) REPORT

Redistribution of wealth ordinarily refers to attempts to tax the wealthy to give relief to the middle and lower income brackets. Congress and the President came up with a new way to redistribute wealth with their federal tax plan, which shifts wealth from the taxpayers in high taxed blue states, such as Maryland, to the taxpayers in low taxed red states, such as Mississippi.

Someone who sits in a trailer park in Mississippi, and ordinarily takes the federal standard deduction because they have no itemized deductions, just received a windfall in doubling the federal standard deduction; those of us in Maryland, who ordinarily itemize because we had itemized deductions, just got hit with disaster.

Using the 2014 Personal Statistics of Income (P-SOI 2014) table from the Comptroller's Office for itemized deductions, the average increase in state and local taxes for returns with Maryland Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) of \$150,000 or less would be about \$1,000. This estimate takes into account that they would otherwise be filing returns with the MD standard deduction after 2017. This would affect about one million taxpayers.

By doubling the federal standard deduction and by eliminating many, if not most, of the middle-class tax deductions, such as those on state and local taxes and mortgage interest and college loans and so on, many individuals who didn't take the standard deduction in the past will now take the federal standard deduction. This presents a particular problem for states like Maryland since itemizing on the state return currently requires itemizing on the federal return, since it is directly tied to the federal schedule A.

There are two options to fix this and on February 21, I testified in support of **Senator Serafini's** efforts to both raise the Maryland standard deduction and allow for itemization at the state level even if taking the federal standard deduction.

Obviously raising the state standard deduction is the simplest solution. Pushback is based on lost revenue from those Marylanders who ordinarily took the state standard deduction. We estimate this number to be more than one million Marylanders most of whom fall within the \$25,000 to \$50,000 income range who will benefit on average with an additional \$220.

To that I say: Give Me A Break - a tax break to be more specific. As a high taxed state, giving a tax break is welcomed. The offset of less administrative costs should also be factored into the equation as well as the additional spending to aid the economy and the additional revenue from sales tax from this

spending. All this must be factored into the equation.

The other option is allowing itemizing at the state level regardless of whether you itemize at the federal level. However, this can only be effective if we add back many of the deductions eliminated by the federal tax plan.

HB 875, the **Governor's** bill, and HB 1336, sponsored by **Delegate Anne Kaiser** of District 14, are designed to do just that, as they do several things to undo the problems for Maryland taxpayers caused by the federal tax cut bill. On March 7, I testified in support of both of these bills. Both bills permit Maryland taxpayers to claim itemized deductions whether or not the individual itemizes deductions on the individual's federal income tax return. Second, both bills add back some of the deductions eliminated at the federal level by the federal tax plan.

HB 875, for example, includes in Section 10-108 (a) an overall provision that says that amendments to the federal tax code taking effect on or after December 21, 2017 that affect "the determination of federal adjusted gross income or federal taxable income does not affect the determination of Maryland taxable income..." In the Fiscal Note, there is a statement, "For any amendment that impacts this determination, the State income tax will be 'decoupled' from the federal amendment."

Delegate Kaiser's HB 1336 bill is similar in that it adds back local and state real estate taxes, although it places a limit on incomes of \$150,000 for single filers and \$225,000 for joint filers.

The important message to our legislators during the testimony was that these "losses" in state and local revenue due to these bills are just undoing the tax increases on Maryland taxpayers resulting from the changes in the federal tax cut bill. They are not real losses. We need to fix this problem this year or too many Maryland taxpayers will be seeing large tax increases for 2018.

Further, it was important to remind our legislators that this is neither a Republican issue nor a Democrat issue; this is a Maryland taxpayer issue and politics must be left behind. These bills must be passed on a bipartisan basis to correct the attack on Maryland taxpayers by the current federal government. If these bills are not passed, while the Maryland coffers will be filled, they will be filled on the backs of the Maryland taxpayers, just like the windfall received by that guy in Mississippi.

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## **NARFE LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER**

To get to the NARFE Legislative Action Center:

Go to [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org); Click on Legislation on left; Under Legislation, click on Take Action. Then click on Write to Congress. That takes you to the NARFE Legislative Action Center.

OR

Use the URL: [www.narfe.org/legislation/votervoice.cfm](http://www.narfe.org/legislation/votervoice.cfm)

## MEMBERSHIP



Edward Reed

2nd Vice President, Membership



Recruit Prospective Members!

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Greetings to all Federation members who enthusiastically embrace our new organizational team title: "Marketing and Member Resources;" we are led at NARFE Headquarters by Staff V.P. **Bridget Boel**. We will, as Active Maryland Federation - "Recruitment/Retention - Go-To-Resources" – continue to provide excellent "Membership Programs and Services" to all current and the many potential new NARFE (National and Chapter) members. Our National NARFE membership closed out 2017 at 208,825 members with increases in October/November/December; at the end of December, 38.6 percent of memberships are National members and 61.4 percent are Chapter members. In the Maryland Federation, there is always a need to emphasize our "Recruitment and Reinstatement" (of non-chapter renewals due to the changes made to the renewal letters from NARFE Headquarters last year), if I may quote our Federation's Membership Retention Chair, Dick Strombotne. Dick also stressed the need to continue all efforts at/on the chapter level to re-invite any/all who transferred out to National Only membership to rejoin the Maryland Federation chapters. Results of "Rejoin Our Chapter Efforts" have been promising in several Maryland Chapters.

One of NARFE'S Strategic Opportunities, as defined in the 2017 Strategic Plan, is "Tough Recruitment Challenges Remain for Membership Growth." Membership Marketing is described in the October 2017 Strategic Plan edition as "Local Face To Face Recruitment" and "representation at state and local high recruitment value events" such as health fairs, state/regional conventions, where prospects are expected to attend.

**\*\*POINTS TO REMEMBER:** (A) NARFE delivers what current federal employees seek - information and guidance on their benefits; (B) NARFE's Webinars offer excellent reasons to join. They are FREE to members. When you next order printed supplies (F-18 Form), why not think "Membership Recruitment" and order Webinars that would assist in "Engaging your chapter members." This will fulfill your own commitment to "Membership Development." (C) Use NARFE meetings to promote membership. Develop a written Membership Marketing Plan/Strategy and use your Chapter newsletters to promote membership! (See: FH-19 Membership - Marketing Manual, page 9.) (D) Have we all approached our nearest NARFE prospective member(your USPS delivery person) face to face and handed him or her an F-135 Membership Application? Listen to their needs and relate these needs to solutions provided by NARFE benefits! It takes practice, but it does work.

GOOD LUCK TO ALL! I hope to see many of the Maryland Federation's Chapter Membership Coordinators at our April 30-May 1 Mini-Conference and Annual Federation Meeting at the Bowie Comfort Inn. Tuesday's agenda calls for a Membership Discussion/Workshop, so, "Come on Down" and bring your "Best ideas for Successful Membership Recruitment" to discuss and share.



## REPORTS, NEWS, EVENTS AND INFORMATION



*Evelyn Kirby*  
*Region II Vice President*

### REGION II UPDATE

Happy Spring. May the awakenings this season brings include many renewals and fresh starts for NARFE. The Association's overall membership thankfully continues its significantly lessened decline—a welcomed trend. I am hopeful that we shall soon see an increase in membership. Certainly, today's headlines and proposed legislation and rules should lead every civilian federal worker and retiree to sign up. This would keep our voices strong and relentless with those seeking to trample on what we worked hard to earn. I will repeat what I have said before: NARFE's retention rate is superior. Virtually every other organization of every kind envies our membership re-up rate. While there seems still to be concern that some renewing members are inappropriately dropped from chapter rolls, I earnestly assure you that there is no intention at any level--by anyone--to do this. Any member who feels s/he may have been dropped from a chapter roster must not let that notion fester. Nor can the notion linger that HQ wants to reduce chapter rolls. That concerned member can be immediately restored to or placed into a chapter as soon as HQ is advised to do so. Also, payment of chapter dues can be made directly to the chapter. While HQ has collected such dues for years as a courtesy to chapters, such payments do not have to go to HQ, which will simply reroute them to the chapter. Remember, the choice to be in a chapter is for each member to make...no one else. Feel free to remind members of this and to be sure to read the selections available to them on renewal and welcome letters they get.

To improve information sharing, National **President Thissen** recently appointed a six-member **Communications Advisory Committee**. I am honored to be the National Executive Board liaison to this new standing group and was at its January inaugural meeting. Washington State's **Nancy Crosby** is Chair; Pennsylvania's **Maria Ritzman** is a member; and Susan Boswell, Staff VP, Communications, and *narfe Magazine* Editor, is staff liaison. It is to advise on and support development and implementation of NARFE's digital and traditional publishing, social media programs and other communications activities. It will offer member perspectives on NARFE communications channels, help collect member feedback, and offer input on merits of proposals for new publications as well as sunseting materials. We are in early days on this important effort. An initial product might be outreach or a brief survey for views on such as select NARFE web pages, the Insider, social/digital media and *narfe Magazine*. Stay tuned.

Please sign up now to attend the Region II Training Academy, June 11-12, 2018, at the Wyndham Garden, York, Pa. The event includes an interactive session led by National President Dick Thissen, National Secretary/Treasurer **Jon Dowie** and Executive Director **Barb Sido** on NARFE's Future. VP, Advocacy **Jessie Klement** and VP, Marketing and Member Resources **Bridget Boel** will lead other lively sessions on current topics. Interactive classroom sessions will be held on these subjects: Chapter President-Chapter Development-Leadership Succession; Fiscal Responsibility-Treasurer; IT/OAM; Roberts Rules; and State Legislative Advocacy. Knowledgeable Region II experts - your peers - will lead these sessions. The \$90 registration fee includes three meals, starting with lunch June 11, from 11:30 a.m. through 1 p.m. The program itself starts right after lunch June 11 and ends just before noon June 12. Each hotel room, with tax, is \$99.90/night. There is an indoor pool. There will be sponsors and displays and plenty of good local sights in this convenient Pennsylvania area. Agenda, registration material and Maryland Federation guidance to chapter presidents and other leaders was sent via **Pat Farmer's** February 20 and February 23 emails. Helping to pay for attendance at an event like this is exactly the right use of member dues money in chapter and Federation treasuries. I hope to see (lots of) you there. It's healthy to be a lifelong learner! It's wise to engage in NARFE activities! It's fun to be with friends!

## FINANCIAL



*Dick Strombotne*  
*Treasurer*

### TREASURER'S REPORT

#### **Federation Finances as of End of 2017.**

At the start of 2017, the Maryland Federation's net assets totaled \$89,866. At the end of the year, they totaled \$102,041, for a net annual surplus of \$12,175. The most significant revenues came from ten-percent funds (\$54,983). Chapter per capita assessments were \$4,888.

**Ten-percent fund revenues in 2017 were about \$5,700 more than in 2016.**

**Net Assets.** The Federation's net assets as of the end of 2017 included: Bank of America (B of A Checking - 44,299.67, B of A Savings - \$81,382.87, B of A CD - \$8,192.52, and the InFirst Federal Credit Union Checking - \$8,166.06. Net assets total \$102,041.12. (InFirst FCU account was closed in January 2018 and assets transferred to B of A Savings).

#### **Maryland Federation Financial Summary – Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2017**

|                                                          |                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| INCOME                                                   |                    |
| Chapter per capita fees                                  | \$4,888.00         |
| Income – State convention – Sales, Registration, Banquet | 12,220.00          |
| Interest income                                          | 28.17              |
| Ten (10) % funds – National Dues                         | 54,983.21          |
| Matching funds                                           | 350.00             |
| Other income                                             | 920.00             |
| CD Interest                                              | 40.79              |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                                      | <b>73,430.17</b>   |
| EXPENSES                                                 |                    |
| Administration, General Routine Expenses                 | \$1,668.92         |
| Chapter Assistance                                       | 1,049.16           |
| Convention, Maryland State                               | 27,378.54          |
| Executive Committee                                      | 5,607.27           |
| Federation Board Meeting                                 | 7,335.44           |
| Legislation – Federal                                    | 7,250.01           |
| Legislation – State                                      | 3,703.23           |
| Membership Recruitment                                   | 1,388.96           |
| Newsletter                                               | 2,013.07           |
| Training                                                 | 3,599.80           |
| United Seniors MD (USM)                                  | 177.80             |
| Web Site                                                 | 83.40              |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>                                    | <b>\$61,255.60</b> |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME – EXPENSES</b>                           | <b>\$12,174.57</b> |



*Patricia Farmer, Secretary*



## SECRETARY'S REPORT

Don't forget to keep your officer rosters (F-7) up to date as we approach the April 30-May 1, 2018 Federation Mini-Conference/Annual Meeting. I rely on this information to be up-to-date when preparing the Directory update. I want to provide you with the most current and correct information possible in the February 2018 Federation Directory.

Wearing one of my other hats, Maryland Federation of NARFE's representative on the Maryland Gerontological Association (MGA) Board of Directors, I want to remind you of the MGA's 36th Annual Spring Conference, on Wednesday, May 23, 2018, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the Meeting House, 5885 Robert Oliver Place, Columbia, MD 21045. With the title "The New Era of Gero-Technology: Real-Life Challenges, Promising Solutions," the conference sessions promise to be beneficial to those who work in the field of aging as well as caregivers and seniors in general.

Registration is open. Visit MGA's New Conference Website, <https://www.marylandgeroassn.org>, for all the details, including the agenda, speakers, CEUs, sponsorship/exhibitor opportunities, the venue and more. You can register for the conference on the new website as well. I hope to see you there.

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Eleanor Kaul

*Coordinator, Federal Employee Education and Assistance – Scholarships and Disaster Fund
Coordinator, Alzheimer's Research Fund*

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

FEEA UPDATE

FEEA Scholarships

The FEEA/NARFE Annual Scholarship Awards Program started February 2018. This year, there will be only two (2) \$1,000 scholarship winners per region, not six (6) as in past years. Maryland is in Region II. The criteria are for high school seniors with at least a 3.0 Grade Point Average (GPA) on an un-weighted 4.0 scale. The regional judging panels will examine each application, essay and supporting documents. To obtain the official form (F-105, 01/17), send an email to scholarship@narfe.org or call Headquarters at 703-838-7760. Now is the time to start the application process.

The **Essay Question**: What do you consider to be the single most important societal problem in the world today and why? What steps do you believe could begin to address it?

Application must be completed online and postmarked no later than the last Friday in April. 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 issue of the *narfe Magazine*. Maryland has had six winners in the last four years. Our children are the future of America!

FEEA Disaster Fund

NARFE also partners with FEEA on a Disaster Relief Fund to aid federal employees who are victims of declared natural disasters. Cash grants of up to \$500 maximum are available to all 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 these two separate funds are tax-deductible. See the *narfe Magazine* for contribution instructions. The address to which the contribution should be sent is listed on the back of the forms and provided in the box above. Please indicate to which fund – scholarship or disaster – the donation is being made.

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## **ALZHEIMER'S DONATION INFORMATION**

Make check payable to NARFE-Alzheimer's Research and mail the check(s) to:

Eleanor Kaul, 8934 Executive Club Drive, Delmar, MD 21875-2366 [eekaul@comcast.net](mailto:eekaul@comcast.net) / 410-896-4354

**Chapter Presidents:** If you haven't already, please send name, email address and phone number of chapter Alzheimer's representative to Eleanor Kaul.

## **REGION II ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH FUND CRUISE**

Join NARFE Region II for the NARFE Association's ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH FUND CRUISE. Family and friends welcome. CARNIVAL PRIDE, Oct. 28- Nov. 4, 2018, 7-Night Exotic Caribbean Cruise from Baltimore Port of Call: Baltimore; two sea days; Grand Turk; Half Moon Cay; Freeport; sea day  
Rates include: Cruise, government fees and taxes, gratuities and donation to Region II NARFE Federations' Alzheimer's Research Fundraising Cruise. Rates Starting at: 8E-Balcony, \$1,170 pp; 8D-Balcony, \$1,160 pp\*; 8C-Balcony, \$1,150 pp\*; 4K-Inside, \$950; 4E-Inside, \$940 pp\*; 4D-Inside, \$935 pp\*; 4C-Inside, \$930 pp\*, Oceanview; Jr. Suites and Ocean Suiterates are available upon request. Single, Triple, and Quad staterooms rates are available upon request.

Travel and Cruise World, 71 Lake Link Circle, S.E., Winter Haven, FL 33884;

1-800-330-7461; Email: [info@travelandcruiseworld.com](mailto:info@travelandcruiseworld.com);

Website: [www.travelandcruiseworld.com](http://www.travelandcruiseworld.com)

For a cruise informational flier: Contact Lou Katz, Region II Alzheimer's Chair, [loukatz@optonline.net](mailto:loukatz@optonline.net).



## **NARFE BYLAWS AND RESOLUTIONS CORNER**

### **Dues Paid by New Members - A Bylaws Amendment**

Dick Strombotne, Membership Retention Chair, [dicksnarfe@comcast.net](mailto:dicksnarfe@comcast.net)

NARFE Headquarters has issued the book on Proposed Bylaws and Resolutions listing all that were received by December 15, 2017. In particular, it includes Proposal #18-13, which was submitted by Western Montgomery County Chapter 258. Its formal title is: "Reallocate Dues Paid by New Members Who Join a Chapter."

Currently, when a new member joins NARFE, pays the \$40 new membership dues and chooses to join a chapter, HQ sends the member's chapter one-third of the dues, \$13.33, and sends the new member's federation ten percent of the dues, \$4.00. By contrast, if the new member does not elect to join a chapter, NARFE HQ need only remit ten percent, \$4.00, to the member's federation. As you can see, NARFE HQ has no incentive to promote chapter membership.

The purpose of the Proposal #18-13 is to get rid of the difference in allocation of dues of a new member regardless of the election to join or not join a chapter. It would amend the bylaws to have NARFE HQ remit just \$4.00 in either case. If the new member joins a chapter, then the chapter gets the \$4.00 that would normally go to the federation; the normal ten percent of dues paid to the federation is started the following year.

Why is this change needed? The answer is that very few new members choose to join a chapter. The Maryland Federation had only 146 new members in all of 2017; five years earlier, in 2012, there were more than 900 new members. The application form mentions the opportunity to join a chapter in the second column as an afterthought. For NARFE HQ there would no longer be a financial disincentive to promote chapter membership. For chapters, one tenth of something is better than one-third of nothing.

You will have the opportunity to vote on this and all other proposed resolutions this spring. It will be placed on the ballot printed in the June 2018 issue of *NARFE Magazine* that will arrive around mid-May. The deadline for receipt of ballots is June 30, 2018.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Sarah Richards, NARFE Chapter 1892 Aspen Hill Member, [NARFEsrichard@aol.com](mailto:NARFEsrichard@aol.com)

Bylaws change Proposal 18-11 removes the confidentiality language protecting your personal data. This proposal, submitted by the National Executive Board (NEB), removes the following language:

*All membership and prospective member lists...shall be treated as confidential...Under no circumstances shall the telephone numbers or email addresses of Association members or potential members be provided to anyone other than Association officials and members.*

Bylaws change Proposal 18-24 weakens chapter autonomy. Submitted by a National Bylaws and Resolutions Committee member, the Proposal eliminates language that provides chapters the ability to "Establish at the local level a means of direct participation in achieving Association objectives and

goals.” The proposal also eliminates some federations’ activity language, limiting their scope, and removes the organizational structure and responsibilities language from the Bylaws and places it in the Standing Rules.

The National Bylaws and Resolutions Committee recommended for approval both of these troubling proposals. Overall, the Committee recommended the following:

- ❑ Adoption of 11 proposals (all submitted by the NEB or the Committee itself with the exception of two, one of which was from a member of the Committee).
- ❑ Rejection of 13 proposals (the majority submitted by federations and chapters).
- ❑ No recommendation for 10 proposals (submitted by various individuals or unknown).
- ❑ Most Committee recommendations and rationale shown in the back of the *2018 Proposed Bylaws and Resolutions* booklet do not have full descriptions of the proposals nor adequate reasons given for the recommendations. Note that for Proposal 18-11 (elimination of confidentiality language), discussed above, the Committee simply said, “This is administrative and does not need to be in the rules. The bylaws committee recommends adoption.”
- ❑ Space in the newsletter is too limited to specifically address all the Committee recommendations. Proposal 18-13 is addressed elsewhere in this newsletter, but many other recommendations also require discussion. Please read the actual full proposals with their descriptions in the Booklet ([https://www.narfe.org/pdf/Bylaws\\_and\\_Resolutions\\_Book.pdf](https://www.narfe.org/pdf/Bylaws_and_Resolutions_Book.pdf)) and not just the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee’s short recommendations. Then, discuss the proposals at chapter meetings and on the NARFE and chapter blogs, on Facebook, etc., **make your own decisions, and** when the balloting is open, **PLEASE VOTE**.

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ACCEPT RESOLUTION 1840R

Sam Girson, Past Region II VP, NARFE Leisure World, sgirson@comcast.net

ACCEPTING Resolution 1840R is one of the most important pieces of guidance members can provide to NARFE’s leadership.

The NARFE Bylaws and Resolutions Committee has recommended REJECTION of Resolution 1840R. ***A GROWING GROUP OF CONCERNED MEMBERS RECOMMEND 1840R BE ADOPTED!***

WHY? NARFE cannot protect our benefits itself! Our membership has markedly declined over the years. We need to widen the scope and increase the depth of our legislative clout and efforts to protect our earned compensation and benefits. We are “low hanging fruit” and easy pickings by the Administration and the Congress.

WHAT? Resolution 1840R proposes NARFE explore and create a nationwide organization that will functionally exist and work together at the congressional district, state and national levels. By establishing a centralized entity, consisting of various Groups, both inside and outside the Federal/Postal Community. Utilizing its combined resources (\$/#) to cooperatively advocate/lobby and speak with ONE VOICE!

This is not new! Years ago, NARFE led the way and established the Federal/Postal Coalition. Resolution 1840R’s initiative is the next logical step to strengthen our position to better meet today’s legislative and political challenges – ***TO PREVENT FURTHER EROSION OF OUR EARNED COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS.***

A YES VOTE to adopt Resolution 1840 is critical to your and NARFE’s future. Spread the word! T-H-I-S I-S B-I-G!!!

Questions? Feel free to e-mail sgirson@comcast.net.

AROUND THE FEDERATION

***Photos by Melinda Scott, Federation Photographer, unless otherwise noted.**



Members of Chapter 969 St. Mary's County present a check for Alzheimer's Research to the Federation's new Alzheimer's Coordinator. L-R: Joe Luskus, Chapter 969 President, Paula Luskus, Eleanor Kaul, Alzheimer's Coordinator, and Roy Wetzel.



NARFE/MD President Dr. Gary Roundtree, Sr. (right) thanks Kevin Kamenetz, Baltimore County Executive, who spoke at the Feb. 6 Board Meeting.



President Dr. Gary Roundtree poses with Isiah Horton, Community Rep for Congressman Anthony Brown and Rachel R. Jones, Field Rep for Senator Ben Cardin.



Dr. Gary Roundtree (C) after installing two chapter Presidents: Marcia Swanson, Chapter 1888 and Frank Lee, Chapter 1747.



Dr. Gary Roundtree and Dr. Sudha Haley join Chapter 258 officers on their Spotlight Tour of Federation Chapters. (L-R): Barbara Ray, Alan Kam, Marty Strombotne, Dr. Gary, Dr. Sudha, Charles Garfinkel and Larry Lange. Photo by Dr. Judith Mazza.



Dr. Gary Roundtree presented Kathy Siggins, Chapter 409, with a Certificate of Appreciation for her hard work on making the Alzheimer's postal stamp a reality. Alzheimer's Coordinator Eleanor Kaul holds a sheet of the new stamps.



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



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Maryland Federation of NARFE
Dick Strombotne
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2018 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 30 - May 1	*Federation Mini-Conference/Annual Meeting, Comfort Inn Conference Center, Bowie, Md.
May 4	*NARFE/MD - BPW/MD Governor's Candidates Forum, Hilton Garden Inn, Frederick, Maryland
June 11 - 12	*Region II Training Academy, Wyndham Garden Hotel, York, Pennsylvania
July 24	*Newsletter Deadline – Articles due for Fall Edition
August 26-28	*FEDcon18, NARFE's National Conference, Hyatt Regency, Jacksonville, Florida