



SPRING 2019

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE



Dr. Gary Roundtree Sr.

John F. Kennedy once said, “We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard, because that goal will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills, because the challenge is one that we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one which we intend to win, and others, too.” “For the eyes of the world now investigate space, to the moon and to the planets beyond, and we have vowed that we shall not see it governed by a hostile flag of conquest, but by a banner of freedom and peace,” the president told 40,000 people in Rice’s football stadium that day. “We have vowed that we shall not see space filled with weapons of mass destruction, but with instruments of knowledge and understanding.”

On February 12, 2019, **Dr. Sudha Haley, Stuart Sklamm, Dr. Bruce Fowler, Paul Hudes, Marcia Swanson** and myself gave a NARFE presentation to Goddard Retirees and Alumni Association (GRAA), members and scientists at of U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration, in Greenbelt, Maryland.

Let’s now turn our attention to the Maryland Federation Election Process coming up this month of March.

One Member One Vote (OMOV) Elections: The Nominating Committee Chair **Larry Walton** and his committee members have provided a **slate of candidates** for the Maryland Federation officers for 2019-2020.

They are: **President Dr. Gary Roundtree Sr.; First Vice President Dr. Sudha Haley; Second Vice President Edward Reed; Secretary Patricia Farmer; and Treasurer Dick Strombotne.** The candidates’ statements are included in this Newsletter. This slate of candidates is currently uncontested, meaning no other candidates for these positions have come forward or been nominated. However, when the OMOV ballot is emailed and/or sent by postal mail, there will be an opportunity for the voter to write in a candidate for each of these offices.

The OMOV ballot has been prepared by the Maryland Federation **Secretary Pat Farmer** and a copy will be provided to the Ballot and Teller Committee. Ballots will be sent out by March 25, to Maryland Federation of NARFE members by the NARFE Email System (NES) and paper ballots by postal mail to those members who requested a paper ballot. Voting begins March 26. Voting ends/ballots must be postmarked by April 15. Ballot and Teller Committee count of votes is due on April 30. President Dr. Roundtree will announce the results of the voting on May 1. For the Maryland Federation members and National Only members in Maryland who do not have an email address, you will need to request a paper ballot be sent to you for voting. To request your ballot, please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to **Maria Ray**, Ballot Coordinator, P.O. Box 47097, Windsor Mill, MD 21244.

DR. GARY ROUNDTREE SR.

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Chapters and Presidents

126 Western Charles/Indian Head	Ed Rice	1522 Susquehanna (Acting)	Barry Decker
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	Patricia Nix	1887 Wheaton/Glenmont	Ron Shansby
409 Frederick	Elinor Abrell	1888 White Oak	Marcia Swanson
410 West-Mar	Donnie Gibson	1892 Aspen Hill	Sarah Richards
422 Laurel	Samuel Raines	1936 N.W. Baltimore Metro	Barbara Cuffie
969 St. Mary's County	Boyd Loflin	1936 Co-Presidents	Bessie Johnson
1127 Rockville	Jennifer Ramsey	1972 Waldorf/La Plata	Edward Holland
1143 Leisure World	John Moens	2166 Eastern Baltimore Area	Jerry Kerner
1260 Southern Prince George's County	William Guthrie	2262 Upper Marlboro	P.A. Jeffries
1363 Bay Area	Jo Anne Groves	2274 Ocean Area	Larry Walton
1372 Tidewater	Gerry Phillips	2306 Carroll County	Charles Harrison
1466 Calvert County	Greg Stottlemeyer		
1519 Glen Burnie, Co-Presidents	Don Bender		
1519	Bob Minghini Sr.		

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*****NOTE FROM THE NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTOR*****

It is very important that all chapter officers are listed on the HQ roster because it is the basis for the NL mailing list.

Message from President Dr. Gary Roundtree – continued:

It's almost time for our May 2019 Conference and our Theme is:

Build, Strengthen, Advocate and Lead

Maryland Federation 44th Biennial Conference

May 5-7, 2019

Dunes Manor Hotel & Suites

2800 Baltimore Avenue

Ocean City, Maryland 21842

To make reservations, call 800-523-2888. Must call by April 4.

All rooms are \$89.00 + \$9.35 = \$98.35 per night all week.

Come early or stay a day or more after at the same hotel rate and enjoy Ocean City.

It's about Communication and Education.

Conference Objective 1: To present the latest in Advocacy Training and Technological Training from a scientific perspective.

Conference Objective 2: To introduce a new model of Social Media and Advocacy Training To Communicate with your Elected Lawmakers in Congress and the Maryland General Assembly.

Come listen and get to know some of the most interesting speakers of our time in government and beyond.

American Federation of Government Employees National President J. David Cox; Barb Sido, NARFE HQ Executive Director; James Marshall, NARFE Federal Benefits Institute; Peter Franchot, Comptroller of Maryland; John C. Wobensmith, Maryland Secretary of State; George Owings, Maryland Secretary of Veterans Affairs; Craig Renner, Senior Director Communications of Maryland Environmental Service; Nancy Gaither, Professional, Talent & Leadership Development; Faye Green, Maryland Author; Ahmed Salem, Special Agent/Assistant Director National Security Programs; Bureau of Industry and Security (BSI), U.S. Department of Commerce; Gee Williams, Mayor, Berlin, Maryland; Rick Meehan, Mayor, Ocean City, Maryland; Tammy Bresnahan, AARP Maryland Associate Director of Advocacy; Barbara Cuffie, NARFE Chapter President 1936; Meagan Sekscinski, Estate Planning; Ronald Rolfe, Deputy Assistant Director, Nuclear & Missile Technology Division, BIS; Kathy Adams, NARFE Region II Vice President; Delegate Wayne Hartman, Maryland House of Delegates, District 38C (Worcester and Wicomico counties); Ryan Snow, Eastern Shore Representative – Governor Larry Hogan, and Tom Xenakis, Chapter 2274, Newsletters and Communication.

Goals of the Biennial Conference: Goal #1: Learn; Goal #2: Connect; Goal #3: Apply

**Dr. Gary Roundtree Sr.,
NARFE Maryland Federation President**

LEGISLATIVE

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

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE REPORT



Drum roll, please, to acknowledge each of YOU and our Leadership and Legislative colleagues at NARFE Headquarters: **Thomas, Sido, Klement, Hatton, Checksfield** and others. After eight years of working both sides of the aisle through years of sequestration and other assaults, and tirelessly defending our earned benefits, federal retirees have lost nothing! Please pledge to continue sending your letters, making calls, and meeting our Lawmakers in person and nurturing them, because we are witnessing the resounding impact you have generated.

Our National Legislative Conference culminates in our Maryland Federation's Crusade to Capitol Hill on March 13. Our Lawmakers plan to drop in as we meet with their Legislative Directors in their Capitol Hill offices. Your Senate & Congressional District Leaders (CDLs) and officers listed below will lead the March 13 meetings with Lawmakers: **Senators—Van Hollen-2:30 p.m. Cardin-3 p.m.-Dr. Bruce Fowler; Congressmen: Cummings-10 a.m.-Dr. Gary Roundtree Sr; Raskin-11 a.m.-Kathy Siggins; Roppersberger-11 a.m.-Ron Bowers; Brown-11:30 a.m.-Edward Holland; Sarbanes-1 p.m.-Chuck Thomas; Harris-2 p.m. Evelyn Kirby; Majority Leader Hoyer-4 p.m.-Dr. Sudha Haley; and Trone-4 p.m.-Ed Reed.** We will be delivering our stories to our Lawmakers, through our 2019 Golden Edition *Profiles in Civil Service*. In addition to NARFE Maryland, this year the Profiles include **NARFE's Virginia, Pennsylvania and District of Columbia Federation members' profiles**. Kudos to our Federation Secretary **Patricia Farmer** who edited ALL jurisdiction's profiles. And, special acclaim goes to our Graphics Director **Ted Page** for the outstanding Profile covers and Golden Edition Profiles' preparation for publication.

Your Federation officers are already involved, through grassroots action, in NARFE's priorities in the **116th Congress** to: Improve integrity of the Federal Long-Term Care Insurance Program; Ensure Postal retirees don't pay for Postal Reform; Provide FERS retirees with full COLAs; Calculate COLAs on the CPI-E; and Prevent unilateral government reorganization. The Proposals we are targeting for defeat are to: Eliminate or Reduce COLAs; Increase FERS retirement contributions by 6 percent; Eliminate the FERS Annuity Supplement; High-3 to High-5 for future retirees; Reduce Rate of Return on the G Fund; Reduce Total Paid Time Off; and Freeze Federal Pay.

All our efforts on Capitol Hill need your support through the **NARFE-PAC**. This is the month we are highlighting our Federation's involvement in this political action committee, where your donations help us elect members of Congress who support our federal community. NARFE HQ's **Ross Apter** continues to highly recommend providing PAC funds to Maryland Lawmakers for helping NARFE win our legislative priorities. Each of you is the public face of NARFE. Let us continue our strong and close relationship with our Lawmakers. Your NARFE-PAC giving ensures that our federal

community is a powerful political force across the country.

Our President Dr. Gary Roundtree Sr. and I are close to completing our **Chapter Spotlight Tour**, meeting every member at your Chapter gatherings; communicating our clear mission, vision and goals; informing you of Federation priorities; and most of all listening to you to help us establish our Federation's future. We have resolved several specific issues and are working with NARFE headquarters on the rest. Of the twenty-eight Chapters, there are just a couple of Chapters we have left to visit, and we anticipate completing the Tour in the fall.

One of the consistent concerns raised by Chapter members was the declining interest in Chapter membership and meetings. To follow up, we have provided training and incentives during our Board meetings and initiated our Outreach, to appeal to new members. **Paul Hudes**, Legislative VP in Chapter 1888, provided us with such a venue. As a dual member of NARFE and the Goddard Retiree and Alumni Association (GRAA), he invited our Federation Team to showcase NARFE's value (see photo of the Team). Another NARFE and GRAA member **Howard Dew**, honored as the National Service Officer of the Year, provided his inspiring insights. This is the kind of interaction that attracts new, participating members. Perhaps you belong to an Association you think our Federation Team should visit to present NARFE's benefits. Please do invite us.

May I leave you with these thoughts: Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, "You can never do a kindness too soon, for you never know when it will be too late." Stop, breathe, notice, reflect, and respond...and from my soul to yours...Namaste.



L-R First VP & Legislative Director Dr. Sudha Haley with National NARFE President Kenneth Thomas and St. Mary's Chapter 969 President Boyd Loflin at St. Mary's Chapter event.

Federation Team presentation to Goddard Retiree & Alumni Association (GRAA): L-R FLC Chair Bruce Fowler, Fed. Asst. Treasurer Stuart Sklamm, Chapter 1888 President Marcia Swanson, GRAA VP Dr. Arlin Krueger, 1st VP & Legislation Director Dr. Sudha Haley, President Dr. Gary Roundtree Sr. and Chapter 1888 Legislative VP Paul Hudes.



Federal Legislative Committee Chair Dr. Bruce Fowler, also on Board of Directors of the Fulbright Association, meeting in Berlin, Germany, with German Chancellor Dr. Angela Merkel to present her with the Fulbright Prize.



Paul Schwartz
State Legislative Committee Chair

STATE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE (SLC) REPORT

There is quite a bit of difference between a substantive plan and the usual political sound bites. A campaign promise, such as a “wall” for example, is usually not much more than a sound bite. On the other hand, a fully developed plan ordinarily includes a methodology for implementation and follow up and is specific as to identifying roles and responsibilities. Most of all a fully developed plan makes it clear as to the issues being addressed and the goal to be achieved.

That, my NARFE cohorts, is exactly what we did to address the injustice of the federal tax plan on the middle-class taxpayers of Maryland, a tax plan that served more as a campaign promise to the top one percent of income than an actual plan to relieve the tax burden on the middle class.

A fully developed plan is exactly how we moved forward to hold the collective feet of our state legislators to the fire for neglecting to address the injustice of the federal tax plan a full year earlier.

The first and most critical element of the plan was to establish a clear goal. Our goal was to have our elected officials in the state legislature enact legislation that would allow itemized deductions on state returns even if the Maryland taxpayer chose the standard deduction on the federal return. This was a critical step in mitigating the impact of the federal plan on Maryland taxpayers since current law does not allow such decoupling and requires taking the minuscule state standard deduction if the now increased federal standard deduction is taken.

Last year the state legislature chose not to address this needed fix, using the excuse that it was “too soon” to assess the full impact of the federal tax plan. A year of ignoring the issue did not seem to bring the state any closer to addressing the issue. The estimated impact on middle class Maryland taxpayers who had ordinarily itemized deductions in the past was an average of around \$1,000 additional state tax. Not something to be easily ignored.

The Comptroller's office estimates that the changes to the State personal income tax as a result of the federal tax plan will result in net additional state revenues of \$403.9 million in fiscal 2019 and another \$315.9 million in fiscal 2020. That is not money in the Maryland budget. That is money that found its way into the Maryland coffers as an unintended consequence of the federal tax-plan. That is tax money that would have been due Maryland taxpayers if not for that federal tax plan. That is Maryland taxpayer money.

The next element of the plan, then, was to make sure that state legislators were made aware of this injustice AND that Maryland middle class taxpayers would not stand idly by as state legislators found new avenues to spend that windfall.

Accordingly, the State Legislation Committee of the Maryland Federation of NARFE actively pursued outreach efforts

to meet with as many state legislators as we could to ensure that they were made aware of the injustice and that we expected them to support our efforts to correct that injustice. This included reaching out to both Democrats and Republicans to ensure that the issue was viewed as nonpartisan and that the solution needed to be nonpartisan if it was to succeed.

A formal survey on the issue was widely distributed to all candidates running for the state legislature as a means of documenting their positions on the issue.

Even more important, the State Legislation Committee mobilized NARFE membership to raise their collective voices to ensure that state representatives understood the gravity of this issue and its importance to their constituents. The electronic tool developed for and provided to NARFE members to contact their state legislators was widely used and extremely effective. The word did, indeed, get out.

I am also proud to say that these collective efforts did succeed in sponsorship of bills in both the House of Delegates and the State Senate to address the need to decouple the state return from the federal return. House Bill 327 and Senate Bill 906 are the direct result of the NARFE implementation plan of which I speak.

It is still too early to claim complete victory since, at the time of this writing, the two bills have not yet made it out of either the House Ways & Means Committee or the Senate Budget & Taxation Committee. Regardless, however, I can say with absolute certainty that without this coordinated effort, this detailed implementation plan, there would have been no chance at all of the state legislature addressing this problem and willingly sacrifice the additional revenue they would have been more than happy to spend.

Stay tuned for further developments and continue to make your voices heard.



SLC Chair Paul Schwartz testifies before the House Budget & Taxation Committee on House Bill 327 on Feb. 13, 2019 in Annapolis. Program & PR Chair Edward Holland on the far left awaits his turn to testify.



Testifiers Paul Schwartz and Edward Holland are surrounded by supporters of HB 327. NARFE/MD members in the group are Chuck Thomas (far right) and Frank Lee (center back).



Some of the NARFE/MD supporters of HB 327 on Feb. 13, 2019 in Annapolis are: (L-R) Mel Robinson, Melinda Sco , Ellen Lee, Vanessa Washington, Frances Steborg, Ed Bice, Steve Groom, Paul Schwartz, Ed Holland and Delegate Edith Patterson (D-28).

MEMBERSHIP



Edward Reed

2nd Vice President, Membership



Recruit Prospective Members!

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

This MEMBERSHIP REPORT is taken from a 2008 - NARFE "Membership Development Manual." But, its words are so very important today. Our THEME: "Together We Can" is: Our Commitment to Membership Throughout the Chapter.

(1) A commitment to membership must be demonstrated by chapter leaders, even those not directly responsible for membership. Chapter leaders promote the success of member participation by their commitment to membership development. At the chapter level, Membership Goals are set by chapter officers who delegate responsibility to the entire membership.

(1a) NARFE chapters are the sum total of its members. Each member contributes to and influences the Group dynamics. In Membership Development, there are many roles for people to play. People feel a sense of accomplishment when they know what they are doing will make a difference. Membership Development offers many opportunities for participation. At least one person in each chapter, regardless of resources, should be accountable for Membership Development. Ideally, many members will be involved, thus reducing the workload and increasing participation within the local chapter and providing training for future Membership Chairs and Chapter Leaders!

(2) Use NARFE Meetings to Promote Membership: Promote Membership Development during the monthly meeting. Provide time to introduce new members and guests. Recognize new members, recruiters of new members and discuss incentives to participate in Membership Development activities. No matter how large or small the attendance, devote some time during the meeting to Membership.

(3) Develop a Written Plan for Membership: Write an Annual Plan with defined goals to attract new members, satisfy the needs of existing members, train members in Membership Development and promote the aims of the MD Federation and National NARFE. Remember the letters "KISMIF" - Keep It Simple, Make It Fun! Determine how much money can be spent in support of recruitment. Keep in mind that chapter funds are also needed to support retention activities. "Ten Percent" funds can be used for Membership Recruitment and Retention Activities.

(4) Use Your Newsletter to Promote Membership: Include a list of new members, successful recruiters or members opting for dues withholding. If a chapter is losing members, advise members that work is needed to reverse a downward trend.

(5) Display Membership Services and Literature Attractively at Meetings: Display available recruitment literature, point out what's new, and encourage members to take literature and applications with them. Bring applications to monthly meetings and print an application in your newsletter. Point out that every issue of *narfe* magazine carries applications.

(6) Leadership Strategies: The more people involved in recruitment, the better the result. All reading this are well aware of the problems in recruiting volunteers to meet chapter leadership needs. It is a serious problem for many chapters to find members willing to take officer and committee assignments. That is why we stress the attention should be lavished on new members.

In conclusion: - Membership Goals and People: Purpose and Goals of the Membership: - Develop a Recruitment and Retention Plan, which identifies and promotes the benefits of membership. Develop among all chapter members the sense of responsibility and commitment to: Membership Growth, Development and Participation. With the support of your chapter's leadership, many goals are achievable and are most important to the future of your chapter; it could just be New Members, New Members-Per-Month, Increase the Number of Members Participating in all Membership Development, Increase the Number of NARFE Spouse Members by two, Increase the Number of Member Renewals or Increase the Number of Members who participate in Dues Withholding Program by 10 Percent -- ALL Are Reasonable Chapter Membership Goals! Good Luck to All!

Resolution on NARFE Support for Social Security Legislation

Dick Strombotne, Membership Retention Committee Chair, DickS.narfe@comcast.net

The Social Security trust fund is projected to have a deficit in 2034 or so, such that it will not have enough revenue coming in to pay for all the benefits due to Social Security recipients. Representative John Larson, (D-CT), Chair of the House Ways and Means Committee, Subcommittee on Social Security, has introduced the Social Security 2100 Act (H.R. 850) with more than 200 cosponsors, to fix the problem and do even more. (All of Maryland's seven Democratic representatives are cosponsors.) As of the end of January, it had eleven endorsers, including for example, AFL-CIO, AFGE, NCPSSM, Senior Citizens League, and Social Security Works. In the last Congress, the bill was cross-filed and sponsored by Sen. Blumenthal (D-CT) and Sen. Van Hollen (D-MD). Note that NARFE is not one of the endorsers. This is because NARFE's Legislative Program for the 116th Congress, while having several worthy legislative goals for Social Security, lacks the broader goals of reducing the deficit in the Trust Fund and improving benefits. Western Montgomery County Chapter 258 has submitted such a resolution to NARFE HQ for action, as authorized in the Bylaws. The resolution is very simple. It states: "**NARFE will support legislation regarding Social Security that improves the solvency of the trust fund and increases benefits for all beneficiaries.**"

Rep. Larson's bill would reduce the deficit in the Social Security trust fund in two ways. It would tax earned income above \$400,000 and it would increase the joint employee-employer FICA tax by 0.1 percent annually for 20 years. Problem solved. NARFE already supports legislation to raise the Wage cap above its current level of \$132,900 but not the gradual increase in revenues. The additional revenues would be used, in part, by increasing Social Security benefits for all current and future beneficiaries by about two percent, by changing the COLA calculation to one based on the higher expenses of elderly retirees (CPI-E), by increasing benefits for caregivers and others who are not able to be in the workforce for 30 years, and by other means. For more details on the bill, click on this link: <https://larson.house.gov/social-security-2100>. A detailed analysis of the bill has been prepared by the Office of the Social Security Actuary.

REPORTS, NEWS, EVENTS AND INFORMATION

KATHY ADAMS
REGION II VICE PRESIDENT
REGION II VP REPORT



1. GET YOUR PERSONALIZED TSP BENEFIT ANALYSIS and FEDWEEK HANDBOOK: All Active Federal Employees are eligible to receive free, no obligation Federal and TSP Benefit Analysis along with a free FEDweek Publication of their choice.

2. As of January 31, 2019, the NARFE Alzheimer's fundraising total is \$13,012,034.73. We are so thankful for all the support and sharing our vision of a world without Alzheimer's.

3. March is NARFE-PAC month, so make sure you contribute to the fine work of FED-friendly candidates who compete in elections, which sets the stage for a more receptive audience on Capitol Hill. That is a big first step toward protecting your earned pay and benefits.

4. It is critical that NARFE enter its second century strong, relevant and firmly established as the go-to resource for our members and prospective members, in the federal community, policy makers, the media and the public. NARFE must aggressively market itself to currently employed, prospective members with a brand that meets their needs and expectations.

5. Just a Reminder: Don't forget to sign up for LEGcon19 - NARFE's Legislative Training Conference March 10-13, 2019, at the Hilton Mark Center, Alexandria VA. NARFE's Day on the Hill will conclude with a closing reception; attendees will have the opportunity to mingle with Members of Congress and their staff.

6. FEEA gave out 412 NARFE Shutdown grants of \$100.00 each for a total of \$41,200 + 25% recovery of admin costs = \$10,300 or a total of \$51,500.

7. The NEB extended the \$10.00 Recruitment Incentive for another two years, after which the NEB will evaluate the effectiveness. Many Federations continue to give the incentives as well.

8. Access to "National - Only Members": Access is now granted to the files of National Only Members by Federation Presidents, National Legislative Chairs, Congressional District Liaisons, Senatorial Legislative Liaisons, Federation Membership Chairs and District/Area Vice Presidents.

9. Four Special Standing Committees were created:

- a. Centennial Committee - NARFE will be a 100-year old association in 2021. A Centennial Committee was formed to investigate options to include the celebration with FEDcon21.
- b. NARFE HQ Building - This committee will investigate potential options for the HQ Building with regard to use or sale of the NARFE building.
- c. Membership Committee - This committee was formed to help reduce the number of lost members each month.
- d. Non-Dues Revenue - This committee will explore options and opportunities for NARFE to increase revenue from sources other than dues.

FINANCIAL



Dick Strombotne
Treasurer

Treasurer's Report and Approved Budget for 2019

Dick Strombotne, Treasurer and Dave Roseman, Budget Officer

Federation Finances as of December 31, 2018.

At the start of 2018, the Maryland Federation's net assets totaled \$102,042. As of December 31, 2018, they totaled \$98,101 for a **year-to-date deficit of \$3,941**. The most significant revenues came from ten-percent funds (\$50,660). See detailed summary in table below.

Net Assets as of December 31, 2018. The Federation's net assets included: B of A Checking - \$1,512.40 and B of A Savings - \$96,589.03. Net assets total \$98,101.43 (inFirst FCU account was closed in January 2018 and assets transferred to B of A Savings. The B of A certificate of deposit matured on April 5, 2018 and assets were transferred to B of A Savings.)

Approved Budget for 2019. The 10 percent revenue is projected to fall as membership declines slowly. The per capita fee for 2019 was waived.

INCOME	2018 Actual	2019 Approved
Transfers of assets to Savings	\$16372.75	
Income – State convention – Sales, Registration, Banquet	150.00	\$12000.00
Interest income	34.30	30.00
Ten (10) % funds – National Dues	50660.83	50000.00
Income – Mini-conference	2500.00	
Other income	3150.00	1500.00
CD Interest *	0.00	
TOTAL INCOME	72867.88	63530.00
EXPENSES	2018 Actual	2019 Approved
Administration, General Routine Expenses	\$643.80	800.00
Alzheimer's	50.00	50.00
Chapter Assistance	4499.30	1500.00
Convention, Mini	11139.44	
Convention, Maryland State	2096.48	30000.00
Conference, NARFE National	5955.76	
Executive Committee	6874.23	7000.00
Federation Board Meeting	9421.55	9500.00
Legislation – Federal	4818.94	6000.00
Legislation – State	6170.69	6000.00
Membership Recruitment	996.06	1000.00
Newsletter	3395.28	3400.00
Training	4299.00	4300.00
United Seniors MD (USM)	50.76	100.00
Website	133.35	150.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$60544.64	69800.00
TOTAL INCOME – EXPENSES	\$12323.24	-6270.00

---*CD interest of \$13.58 included in Transfers of Assets



Patricia Farmer, Secretary



SECRETARY'S REPORT

As the NARFE/MD representative to the Maryland Gerontological Association (MGA), I am happy to report that the Maryland Federation of NARFE is a luncheon sponsor for the MGA 37th Annual Conference, which will be held on June 6, 2019 at Meeting House in Columbia, Md. The Conference title is Social Isolation: Challenges for Aging Professionals and Families.

Topics include: AARP Social Isolation Study; Loss & Loneliness; Managing Hoarding; Exploring Village Communities in Maryland; Health Risks to Older Adults; Efforts to Reduce Isolation & Loneliness in Minority and Vulnerable Communities. There will be a Continental Breakfast; Exhibitors; Raffles; Awards Luncheon Speaker Rona E. Kramer, Secretary, Maryland Department of Aging; and a Networking Reception. NARFE/MD will also be an Exhibitor, with a table of NARFE materials.

On to NARFE/MD business. I respectfully request that Chapter Presidents and Secretaries pay attention to updating their meeting information when they make online changes to their F-7. This information is woefully out of date and I would like to have the latest information for the next Maryland Federation Directory, which will be the May update provided at the Biennial Conference in May in Ocean City.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Biennial Conference. It promises to be an informative and fun conference.

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT



Edward Holland, PR Chair

As the Public Relations Officer, I will strive to publicize national and state legislative programs supported by NARFE; provide the local press, television and radio with factual information concerning NARFE positions on current issues; ensure that chapter officers are up to date on issues affecting members; and coordinate with the chapter president visits by elected officials and candidates for public office, and other public relations programs scheduled for chapter meetings. I feel that if it is raining outside, my job is to convey to the reader that it is sunny outside. As it stands, this office is now on NARFE MD Press Release 004-2019. If your president has not forwarded a press release to you, please contact me at hollandnmd@aol.com.

Deputy Public Relations Officer Thomas Hill assists with the research that goes into crafting a NARFE Maryland Press Release. In addition, I submit a draft PR to Deputy Officer Hill and Social Media Coordinator Flash Gordon for a sanity check. Tom retired as an Information Technology Specialist with the U.S. Department of the Navy after 31 years as a civilian Federal employee. He is an active member of NARFE Chapter 1972.



Edward Holland, Program Chair
 301-848-3476 (cell)
 301-632-2826 (home)
hollandnmd@aol.com

PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT

Have you reserved your hotel room at the Dunes Manor Hotel in Ocean City?

As the Chair of the Program Committee, I am responsible for securing speakers/guest participants for all Federation meetings and events, to include the three Board meetings per year (February, May and October); the Mini-Conference; the Biennial Conference; Training Day; and any other ad hoc event such as candidate forums. Working with Program Vice Chair Thomas Hill, you are going to be treated to wonderful speakers at the Federal, State, and local levels. If you haven't already secured your room at the Dune Manor Hotel, please do so now!

Moreover, you are part of the Program Committee. Meaning that you should feel free to provide me with a name and contact information on an engaging speaker. Remember, the speaker should be someone that you would want to hear from.

Stay safe.



Eleanor Kaul
 Coordinator, Federal Employee and Education
 Assistance – Scholarships and Disaster Fund
 Coordinator, Alzheimer's Research Fund
EEKaul@comcast.net 410-896-4354

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

NARFE-FEEA UPDATE

NARFE – FEEA now has a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), providing funds for natural disasters, financial grants during Government shutdowns and scholarships. The March 2019 *narfe* magazine, page 43, has the new NARFE-FEEA Fund donation form.

There has been a major change in FEEA scholarships awards. Previously two (2) \$1,000 scholarships per region were

awarded. Now only one (1) scholarship for \$700 per region will be awarded.

The February issue of the *narfe* magazine, page 42, has information for applying for a scholarship. The current deadline is MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2019. Information is available online at scholarship@narfe.org.

NARFE National President Ken Thomas was instrumental in the NARFE-FEEA shutdown emergency grant program, which distributed more than \$41,000 to 410 employees. At the May 2019 Maryland NARFE Conference, there will be a FEEA raffle with two winners. At the 2018 conference, members contributed \$475. Let's raise more than \$500 this year.

Your donations at work.

ALZHEIMER'S REPORT

The Maryland Federation has donated \$12,425 to Alzheimer's in 2018. The three highest chapter donations are: 696 St. Mary County \$3,000, 2274 Ocean Area \$1,498, and 1127 Rockville \$1,200.

Thus far in 2019, I have received \$31 from Chapter 251 Annapolis and \$248 from Chapter 1972 Waldorf-La Plata. Make check payable to NARFE-Alzheimer's Research and mail it to Eleanor Kaul, 8934 Executive Club Drive, Delmar, MD 21875. Remember to have your CHAPTER NUMBER on the check memo line at the bottom left.

Ocean Area Chapter 2274 is having a fundraiser for Alzheimer's on Saturday, March 16, 2019 at Carrabba's in Ocean City.

Resolution from Our Federation

Saj Durrani and John Stackpole
Co-Chairs, Resolutions Committee

The Resolutions Committee (ResCom) received only one Resolution before the Federation Board's February meeting. It suggests a change in the text of future ballots by HQ for changes to the National Bylaws, and was submitted by Sarah Richards, a member of our ResCom and President of Chapter 1892 – Aspen Hill. Please see Sarah's article below for details of the Resolution.

The ResCom recommended adoption of the Resolution, and the Board agreed, so it has been submitted to Headquarters. However, the National Bylaws and Resolutions Committee is still in the process of updating its procedures, and we have not heard back from them.

National NARFE Bylaw Change Proposal from Sarah Richards, Resolutions Committee

On February 9, the NARFE Maryland Federation Board submitted to NARFE Headquarters a proposal to change the National NARFE Bylaws to include election ballot design standards. The proposal was needed due to the poor design of the last National election ballot. The proposed standards are:

Each ballot shall: (1) be easily understandable by voters; (2) Present all candidates and questions in a fair and nondiscriminatory manner; (3) Permit the voter to easily record a vote on questions and on the voter's choices among candidates; (4) Protect the secrecy of each voter's choices; and (5) Facilitate the accurate tabulation of the choices of the voters.

Headquarters has not yet determined if they will accept this proposal for member review and vote.

MARYLAND FEDERATION OF NARFE ~ STATEMENTS OF CANDIDATES FOR OMOV ELECTION

PRESIDENT ~ DR. GARY ROUNDTREE SR.

I currently serve as President of the Maryland Federation of NARFE. I provide strategic leadership for the Federation by working with the Executive Committee and Board and other management to establish long-range goals, strategies, plans and policies; I plan, develop, organize, implement, direct and evaluate the organization's fiscal function and performance; and preside at all meetings.

A United States Marine Corps Veteran and an Army Reserve Veteran, I continue to serve as a federal employee in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. An ordained Bishop, I currently serve as a Chaplain with the VA National Black Chaplains Association and as a VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) Officer, Department of Maryland Marine Corps League VAVS Officer, VSO, Fort George Meade Liaison, Maryland Joint Veterans Committee, U.S. Army Ambassador CRSC/TSGLI, NSO/CSO Disabled American Veterans attorney-in-fact, assisting veterans and families with filing claims with the VA. I previously served in the Department of Defense and also in the U.S. Postal Service.

I serve on the NARFE Maryland Federation Editorial Board, Department of Veterans Affairs NBCA Editorial Board Department of Veterans Affairs Congressional and VSO Stakeholder Board. I published various articles and papers; appeared on television and radio programs for NARFE and Veterans Organizations. I am also a member of the Council of Federal Executives and Associates.

A native of Hookerton, North Carolina, I am a graduate of Philadelphia Bible College Seminary and University, and Family Bible College Seminary and University. I am also an alumnus of Hampton University. I hold a Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical Counseling, Doctor of Theology, Doctor of Divinity, Master of Theology, Bachelor of Theology and Associate of Arts in Biblical Studies. I am also a Master Mason with 3rd degree from Prince Hall Grand Lodge. I hold the following certifications: DVA-NBCA Clinical Certified Member; Licensed Clinical Pastoral Counselor – Advance; Board Certification for Group Therapy, Board Certification for Integrated Marriage and Family Therapy; and National Board of Clinical Therapist Supervisor.

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT/LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR ~ DR. SUDHA HALEY

I currently serve as the Maryland Federation's First Vice President and Legislative Director and NARFE-PAC Coordinator. I previously served the Federation as Legislative Committee Chair and Senate Leader and Congressional District Leader.

I motivated and inspired a brilliant Team of NARFE/MD Federation leaders to create a **Profiles in Civil Service** book, because Senators and Congressmen urged us to tell our stories for them to share across the aisle. The Federation *Profiles* have surpassed all expectations, and have gone nationwide with Colorado, Kansas, Florida, California, North and South Carolina, and many other Federations asking to follow Maryland's *Profiles* lead. Our 2019 *Profiles* Golden Edition will also include profiles from Federal employees and retirees in Virginia, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C.

I collaborated and built sustainable alliances with coalition partners, including AARP and many others, to create and manage **Forums** for Maryland's Senate, Congressional and Governor candidates, webcasting the debates statewide.

I partnered with Maryland Federation President Dr. Gary Roundtree Sr. to initiate the **Chapter Spotlight Tour**. The goal has been to visit every Federation Chapter together, listen to and try to resolve members' concerns, and gain member insight and priorities for the future of our Maryland Federation.

Leading several sustaining initiatives and programs, I have delivered two years of passionate and dedicated service as the First Vice President and Legislative Director and NARFE-PAC Coordinator. In the next two years, I am eager to generate more ideas to promote our Federation and to serve our officers and members and help them achieve and accomplish our mutual goals.

Several members and Federation and Regional leaders have encouraged me to seek another two-year term. They indicated that I have built momentum as a knowledgeable, supportive, empowering, inspiring leader, bringing energy, vision, diverse perspectives, competencies and proficiencies, in accomplishing the Federation's Mission and Goals. They have urged me to continue.

Among my many leadership and management positions in the United States government and in the public sector, I served as the Assistant Deputy Associate Secretary of Labor. I had oversight of the Budgets, Personnel and Programs of ten Department of Labor agencies, including the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the International Bureau of Labor. These, among other leadership and management positions I have held in my long professional career, have equipped me to undertake any executive position.

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT/MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR ~ EDWARD REED

I currently serve as Second Vice President and Membership Director for the Maryland Federation of NARFE. In my Chapter 306 Hagerstown, I was Membership Chair for four years and served as Chapter President for four years. I currently serve Chapter 306 as Vice President for Legislation.

I have participated in three National NARFE Conventions: 2014 Orlando, Florida; 2016, Reno, Nevada; 2018 Jacksonville, Florida; three National NARFE Legislative Conferences (2015, 2017 and 2019) in Alexandria, Virginia; and two Maryland Federation Biennial Conventions in Ocean City, Maryland. I have also attended all Maryland Federation Board meetings in Bowie, Maryland, from 2013 to the present, as Second Vice President/Membership since 2018.

I would like to be reelected as Second VP/Membership to continue to encourage more new Maryland Federation memberships, both retiree Chapter memberships and active duty federal/postal employees as National NARFE members. My continued emphasis would be active U.S. Postal Service personnel for membership. I believe our Maryland Federation Executive Committee should try to work with USPS leadership and their unions to encourage NARFE membership.

My additional leadership and management experience include over 45 plus years as an Adult American Boy Scout (BSA) leader in five locations: Glens Falls, N.Y., Buffalo, N.Y., Glen Burnie, Md., Hagerstown, Md., and Baltimore, Md.

SECRETARY ~ PATRICIA A. FARMER

I currently serve as the Maryland Federation Secretary. In my NARFE Chapter 422 Laurel, I served as Public Relations Chair, Newsletter Editor for many years, First Vice President, and President for eight years. I currently serve as chapter secretary.

Other related activities I have participated in are:

- Served as Federation Secretary for the last six years.
- Represent NARFE/MD on the Board of the Maryland Gerontological Association as Administrative Vice President for Membership; and served as the MGA membership chair. Ted Jensen asked me to serve in this capacity when he was Federation President.
- Edited the Federation newsletter for the last six years. Now serve as the Federation Newsletter Production and Editorial Manager (layout and editing).
- Updated Federation secretary's documents to electronic format.
- Actively participate in the management of the Federation through involvement in the Executive Committee.
- Serve on the NARFE/MD *Profiles* Editorial Review Board. Edited 2017, 2018 and 2019 editions.
- Secured speakers for NARFE/MD meetings before Program Chair position was instituted at my suggestion.
- Was a member of the planning team for NARFE/MD political forums, including two Gubernatorial Forums.
- Served on the Federation's (FEEA) Scholarship Committee for five years.
- Served on Federation's Nominating Committee.
- Currently serve as Secretary for the Laurel Chapter of the American Rosie the Riveter Association (ARRA)
- Served two terms (2005-2006 and 2006-2007) as Secretary for the Maryland Federation of Business & Professional Women
- Honed editing and writing skills while working for over 10 years (second career) with Patuxent Publishing and later the Baltimore Sun Media Group, as editorial assistant for the *Laurel Leader*; and for over five years as a *Senior Circles* columnist, writing about subjects of interest to older adults, for the *Howard County Times* and the *Laurel Leader*.
- Nominated and selected for the Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame, Class of 2018, for extensive volunteer work.

My Leadership and Management Experience includes:

- Retired in 2002, after 37 years, as a senior manager at the National Security Agency; supervised at the team and branch levels; managed at the deputy division, division and office staff levels.
- Received the Agency-level Red Carnation manager award submitted by the people I managed at the office staff level.
- Serve as President of the Altar Society at St. Nicholas Catholic Church, Laurel, Md.
- Serve as Chair, St. Nicholas Church Fall Bazaar each year.
- Co-Chaired, St. Nicholas Church Craft & Vendor Fair
- Served as member of the St. Nicholas 50th Anniversary Planning Committee, leading the church's involvement in the Laurel Main Street Parade and Festival to celebrate this special anniversary with the community..

I want to continue as a Federation officer to provide continuity on the Executive Committee; to help move the association forward in a positive direction; and to further the NARFE mission.

TREASURER ~ RICHARD L. STROMBOTNE

A member of Western Montgomery County Chapter 258, I currently serve as Treasurer of NARFE/MD.

My Chapter service includes: President, Vice President, Membership Chair over the years and member of the Executive Board. The offices I have held in the Maryland Federation are: 1st Vice President (2001-2005), President (2005-2009), and Treasurer (2009-Present).

I want to continue to serve members and chapters as Treasurer and to participate in making policy on various federation activities, Executive Committee, Federation Board and State Legislation Committee.

AROUND THE FEDERATION



Barb and Charley Ware celebrate St. Patrick's Day at NARFE Hagerstown Chapter 306 Membership Meeting.
Photo by President Patricia Nix



Financial Advisor Eric Morrow speaks at NARFE Hagerstown Chapter 306 Membership Meeting.
Photo by President Patricia Nix

The following photos were taken by Maryland Federation Photographer Melinda Scott.



Former IRS Commissioner John Koskinen speaks to members at the Feb. 5, 2019 Board Meeting in Bowie.



President Dr. Roundtree poses with our luncheon speaker Colonel William Pallozzi, Maryland Secretary Police.



President Dr. Roundtree (R) congratulates William Guthrie, President of Chapter 1260, on his induction as a new NARFE/MD Board member.



Frank Lee (R), President of Chapter 1747, introduces Charles Smith, an active federal employee who was seriously affected by the government shutdown.



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



Maryland Federation Newsletter

Protect Your Retirement

VISIT:

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

Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/NARFEMDFED/>

The Maryland Federation **Website**

at WWW.MDNARFE.ORG

With Links for Easy Browsing!

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

2019 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 22	Candidates' Statements in Newsletter & Sent by NES
March 25	OMOV Ballots Mailed by Email and Postal Mail
March 26	OMOV Voting Begins
April 4	Deadline for Hotel Reservations – Dunes Manor, Ocean City
April 6	Deadline for Conference Registration & Banquet Reservations
April 15	OMOV Ballots Must Be Postmarked
April 30	Final Count of Ballots Due
May 1	NARFE/MD President Announces Results of OMOV Election
May 5-7	Maryland Federation Biennial Conference, Ocean City
July 24	Articles Due for Federation Fall Newsletter