

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association
Western Montgomery County Chapter 258 - Chartered November 10, 1953
The largest NARFE Chapter in the country!

January 2020

Our Next Chapter Meeting – And Upcoming Events

Our Friday, January 10th Chapter meeting will be at the Mykonos Grill, 121 Congressional Lane, Rockville, MD; members who wish to come for lunch may arrive at 11:30 a.m., with the meal being served at 12:00 noon. The cost is \$25.00 per person, payable either in cash, or checks made out to "Mykonos Grill" (please, no credit cards). Those who do not wish to come for lunch may arrive at 1:00 p.m. **Our speaker will be Ms. Marilyn Scheiner, CPA, who will present an update on Federal and State Income taxes.**

PLEASE NOTE: If Montgomery County Public Schools either have a delayed opening or are closed due to inclement weather on the day of either our **Chapter Board meeting OR our Chapter membership meeting**, that meeting will be cancelled.

Chapter Executive Board meeting Monday, January 6th, will be conducted by E-mail.

Our Friday, January 10th Chapter meeting will be at the Mykonos Grill 121 Congressional Lane, Rockville, MD

NARFE MD Federation Board Meeting, Friday, February 7th, Comfort Inn, Bowie, MD (please contact Lois Beaver if you would like to attend; Chapter 258 will pay your \$20.00 registration/lunch fee).

Chapter Executive Board meeting Monday, February 10th, Ledo's Pizza, 10300 Westlake Drive, Bethesda, MD, 10:00 a.m.

Friday, February 14th, Chapter meeting will be at the Mykonos Grill 121 Congressional Lane, Rockville, MD. Our speaker will be District 1 Montgomery County Councilman Andrew Friedson

PLEASE !! If you have a "winter" address, have a change of your local address or your E-mail address, or haven't provided us with your E-mail address – please advise the NARFE Headquarters Member Records at 1-800-456-8410. Thanks !

PRESIDENTS' CORNER

Lois Ann Beaver, Co-President

At the previous Chapter 258 Meeting on November 8, 2019 advice and updates on the Federal Employee Health Benefits Open Season for the 2020 Plans were provided by Jennifer Malave and Stephanie Atkinson, CareFirst Blue Cross Blue Shield, and Kelly Piton, AETNA. Valuable information on the new plans led to a lot of interaction between the presenters and NARFE members.

On Friday, Dec. 13th, Chapter 258 members and their guests enjoyed a Holiday Party at Alfio's La Trattoria. It included good food and the delightful music of Clarke Maylone's Band with singing by Clarke and Joni Maylone and Andy Mollard.

The Friday, January 10, 2020 Chapter 258 Meeting, will be at the Mykonos Grill at 11:30 a.m. Just in time for our 2019 income tax preparation we will have a local expert on State and Federal taxes who will provide essential advice. Marilyn Scheiner, CPA who was a Professor in Montgomery County and a tax consultant in Rockville provides an update on taxes and will take questions from meeting participants.

NARFE Membership Recruitment. It is in your interest to recruit federal colleagues to join NARFE. Strengthening membership increases activities and impact. AND during the current recruitment drive that ends on Dec. 31, 2019, when you include your membership number on the new member's application form, you will be awarded \$10 from NARFE. Further awards may be associated with indicating a Maryland NARFE Chapter number on the new member's application form.

INFORMATION FROM NARFE HEADQUARTERS

Fraudulent emails in the name of Maryland Federation President Gary Roundtree, Sr. asking for money/donations or purchase of gift cards should be deleted.

Key dates regarding the upcoming 2020 voting:

March, 2020: Candidate Statements will be published in NARFE magazine

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July, 2020: Bylaws information will be published in NARFE magazine

August, 2020: Ballot appears in NARFE magazine (voting website should begin)

August 31, 2020: Voting closes at 11:59 pm EST

There is a new post at <http://mdnarfe.org>. You can read it here: <http://mdnarfe.org/united-seniors-of-maryland-usm/>

The United Seniors of Maryland (USM) will have a Legislative forum at the Miller Senate East & West Wings, Annapolis, MD on January 14, 2020 from 8 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The USM meets on the 3rd Monday of the month.

For information on the United Seniors of Maryland, contact Elizabeth Weglein at ew@elizabethcooneyagency.com or 410-608-7966.

The NARFE Newsline Advocacy Update for December 17, 2019 is available at www.narfe.org/newsline_advocacy. This is a short, informative update by National NARFE President Ken Thomas.

The winter 2019/2020 NARFE Maryland Federation newsletter is available at www.mdnarfe.org; in the black toolbar at the top of the Federation's homepage, click on "The MD Federation" tab -- from the drop down menu that appears click on "Federation Newsletters"

For members making a permanent move, please provide your new address to NARFE, either at 606 N. Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314, call Member Records at (1-800-456-8410), or login to the NARFE website (www.narfe.org). On the left side of the page under What You Can Do Online click on Update My Record to access this section; you will need a password.

CONTACTING YOUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

Dave Richman

As you ought to be aware, the 2017 revision to the Federal tax code significantly limited the amount of state income and property taxes that can be deducted from Federal income tax. If, because you don't itemize these deductions on your Federal tax return -- you use the new increased Federal deduction ceiling -- you now can't itemize them on your Maryland income tax return.

The result for many of us is that we pay more tax to Maryland than we ought to! The Maryland General Assembly DID NOT pass legislation this year to correct this; NARFE has raised this issue and we need NARFE members to get their representatives to understand this and correct it!

You may contact your elected representatives utilizing the NARFE homepage. The following steps will allow you to both identify **all** your elected representatives, on both the federal and state levels, and to send them a message, telling them about the above issue, and other issues that are important to you as a NARFE member: (1) go to the NARFE homepage, narfe.org, and sign in as a member (if you have not already done this, it is a straight-forward procedure; just follow the prompts you'll be given); (2) once on NARFE's homepage, scroll down the far left column to reach "What You Can Do Online"; click on "Legislative Action Center"; (3) in the far left column on this page under "Advocacy," click on "Contact Your Legislators"; (4) scroll all the way to the bottom of this screen -- under "Find Politicians," fill in your zip code, and click on the small arrow in the circle; (5) fill in your home address; again, click on the small arrow in the circle; (6) you'll be given a list of all your specific legislators, from federal to state; (7) click on the legislator's name, and you will be shown his or her address; click on the box to the left of that legislator's name, and then click on the red "Compose Message" at the bottom of this page. There will be a box for you to compose your message to him or her.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Larry Lange, Treasurer

Chapter 258, Funds Summary, November 4, 2019

Checking Account balance, 10/9/19	\$ 12,904.09
Receipts, 10/9/19 - 11/4/19	\$ 989.12
Expenses, 10/9/19 - 11/4/19	\$ 167.44
Checking Account balance, 11/4/19	\$ 13,725.77
Working Capital/Total Chapter assets	\$ 13,725.77

IT BEARS REPEATING --

Larry Lange, Treasurer

This article appeared in our September, 2019 NARFE BUZZ; some Chapter members may still not have set up this new way to access the NARFE homepage. National NARFE is still working on completely implementing its AMS (Association Management System), one part of which is redoing the NARFE homepage, its online reports for Chapter officers, and more. You will no longer be able to sign onto the NARFE homepage as you have in the past. To access the NARFE homepage (if you previously have had a NARFE account), go to www.narfe.org; at the Sign In screen you will be offered (a few lines down in the left column) several ways to sign on. I chose to utilize my complete E-mail address, and a new password I created. You will then be taken to a page with a horizontal row of buttons; to the right of the red Home button is a blue button for the NARFE home page. Clicking on that blue button will take you to the NARFE homepage, which offers a wealth of information for members, including

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webinars (which are very popular with NARFE members), "Latest News from NARFE," and many other options. Do some "exploring" to access the large amount of helpful information available to you. To contact your elected local and federal representatives (see Dave Richman's article in this issue of the BUZZ) you must first be able to sign onto NARFE's homepage on the Web.

All pictures were taken by Judy Mazza



At our November 8th Chapter meeting (L to R): Chapter 258 Officers Allan Kam, 1st VP; Lois Ann Beaver, President; Larry Lange, Treasurer; and CareFirst Blue Cross Blue Shield Account Manager Jennifer Malave



At our November 8th Chapter meeting (L to R): Stephanie Atkinson and Jennifer Malave, CareFirst Blue Cross Blue Shield representatives; Kelly Piton, AETNA representative



Clarke Maylone and his band played at our December 13th Chapter 258 Holiday Party



Members of the Clarke Maylone Band provided entertainment at our December 13th Chapter 258 Holiday Party (L to R): Bob Williams, Clarke Maylone, Andy Mollard, Roger St. Vincent, and Joni Maylone

Western Montgomery County Chapter 258
National Active and Retired Federal Employees
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**THIS IS YOUR CHAPTER 258 NEWSLETTER
PLEASE READ !! ☺**

**The speaker for our January 10th Chapter meeting will be
Ms. Marilyn Scheiner, CPA, who will speak on updates to
Federal and State Income Taxes.**

Chapter Officers

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Gov. Hogan's e-mail is governor.mail@maryland.gov. Your legislators may be reached at www.mgaleg.maryland.gov; they may also be reached using the General Assembly's number. 1(800) 492-7122

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