



SPRING 2020 NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dr. Gary Roundtree Sr.

Dear Fellow NARFE Members,

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused many disruptions in our daily lives. In light of the situation, NARFE National HQ shut down to prevent the spread of the virus among staff and employees. Now, since NARFE HQ is in Alexandria, Va., and Virginia Governor Northam issued a shelter in place order in his state, Executive Director Barbara Sido issued an email on April 3, reporting that NARFE HQ will be shut down until at least June 20, 2020, unless the governor rescinds his order sooner. NARFE HQ does have people working from home who are continuing to protect our benefits.

Seventy-five million Americans are now told to stay home as testing reveals more Coronavirus cases. The economy is on the verge of going into a Great Depression since many of the nation's businesses have been ordered to close, and many of their workers/employees have been laid off from work due to this pandemic. This will cause a great spike in unemployment, with a rise to somewhere around 20 percent or higher, if the government doesn't intervene soon. Our country is facing one of the greatest challenges since WWII.

America has always been a beacon of light and hope to countries around the world, for inspiration, optimism and leading the way through dark challenges. Now, if you think you are ill and need medical care, you should seek medical attention. Call ahead before going, so the provider can take precautions when you arrive. Testing guideline from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) change frequently. Please visit its site for updates on guidance about who should be tested.

Your physician or health care provider will assess your symptoms and determine if diagnostic testing for the COVID-19 is appropriate. If your health care provider suspects COVID-19, he/she will coordinate testing with a commercial lab, the State's public health laboratory, or a county drive-thru testing facility. While some commercial labs have the ability to analyze and report results to the patient or provider who ordered testing, the labs currently only perform the analysis and DO NOT collect specimens directly from patients. If you have questions, call 240-777-1755, Montgomery County Disease Control and Epidemiology, or your county office of Disease Control.

As a result of COVID-19, the Maryland Federation has cancelled the May, 2020 Mini-Conference and any upcoming Chapter Meetings in the Maryland Federation to help stop the spread of the virus. With most of our members being of the age of 65+, that would put them at a higher risk of contracting the virus in large groups of people. Our members' safety comes first. On the Region II Training Conference, which was scheduled for June 1-2, 2020 in York, Pa., Region II VP Kathy Adams, with her region's federation presidents, rescheduled the York Training Academy to September 23 and 24, 2020.

The National Executive Board (NEB) meeting that was scheduled to take place in San Diego, Calif., at the Hilton Valley Mission Hotel, March 17-19, 2020, was cancelled and changed to a GoToMeeting by conference call or video via SKYPE for March 18-20, 2020. I was on the conference call as a Candidate for Regional Vice President Region II. All the candidates running for National Office are listed in the March issue of *NARFE* Magazine with their candidate statements.

We have a new Treasurer for the Maryland Federation after Treasurer Dick Strombotne stepped down due to health-related issues on January 24. Stuart Sklamm is our new Treasurer and Dave Roseman is now the Assistant Treasurer for the Maryland Federation. Also, added to the MD FED is Virginia Bender as Assistant Secretary who will be assisting our current MD FED Secretary Pat Farmer. Doug Fischer is now the Chair of the Vendor Committee, since Emily Perry, his co-chair, resigned because of other commitments.

The voting on the Maryland Federation Bylaws Amendments has been postponed since the Ballot and Teller committee members are sheltering in place because of the Coronavirus and the difficulty it would cause them in mailing and picking up returned ballots at the Post Office box from those who don't have email. We will revisit the voting schedule on an Executive Committee conference call with all those involved on May 13.

It is too soon to tell you whether FEDcon20 and the Federation Presidents Meeting at the end of August in Scottsdale, Arizona, will be cancelled. The decision to cancel or proceed will be made by National HQ. I will continue to monitor it and keep you posted on it with any updates from National HQ. Please note that the next MD FED Board meeting is scheduled for October 5, 2020 at the Bowie Comfort Inn. Hopefully, things will have settled down quite a bit for us to meet again.

Since the passing of Congressman Elijah E. Cummings earlier this year, I have had the distinct pleasure to meet and talk with candidate and former Congressman Kweisi Mfume at the Maryland House Speaker Adrienne Jones' 10th District Night on March 9 in Annapolis, Maryland. Mfume is running to fill the District 7 seat of the late Chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Congressman Elijah E. Cummings.

Now, as I bring my president's article to a close, please remember during this pandemic to follow all government officials' calls and CDC instructions to protect you and your family members from the COVID-19 virus, and remember to wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Be safe and take care. Please stay at home so we can contain this pandemic and protect all of us from spreading the virus.

DR. GARY ROUNDTREE SR.

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Former District 7 Congressman Kweisi Mfume (L) with NARFE/MD President Dr. Gary Roundtree Sr. March 9 in Annapolis.



Baltimore County Councilman Julian Jones (L) with NARFE/MD President Dr. Gary Roundtree Sr. March 9 in Annapolis.



Late Oscar Horton (seated center) with Southern Maryland Delegation at the United Seniors of Maryland Legislative Forum.



(L-R): Kathy Siggins, Congressman David Trone, Dr. Sudha Haley, and Kathy Schwab at the February 7 Federation Board meeting.



Majority Leader Congressman Steny Hoyer convened Tri County (Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's counties) Census 2020 Leaders to develop strategy to motivate undercounted and hard to reach population to respond timely.



Dr. Sudha Haley

*First Vice President / Legislative Director/
NARFE-PAC Coordinator*



FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE REPORT

In the past months, we have been mourning the loss of several Federation officers and good friends. They shared their talents, expertise, and enthusiasm in dedicating their volunteer time to help us fulfill our unique purpose. Our Legislation family has recently lost **Jerry Kursban** (Federal Legislative Committee-FLC) and **Oscar Horton** (State Legislative Committee -SLC). We can only gain solace and peace in knowing that we made sure they were aware of how very much they were valued.

Our Legislative Leaders, FLC Chair **Dr. Bruce Fowler** with our Senate Leaders (SLs) and our Congressional District Leaders (CDLs) and SLC Chair **Paul Schwartz** with SLC members, continue to invest their time and efforts to increase the visibility of our Federation on Capitol Hill, District offices, and in Annapolis. We follow their leadership as they advocate and speak at hearings to convey our message on Bills and Resolutions that affect our pay and benefits. Our Congressional District Leader **Kathy Schwab** was even able to deliver **Congressman David Trone** to our Federation's Board meeting. He answered critical questions from members, and remains one of our federal employees' and retirees' champion. Our positive momentum continues, and as soon as this pandemic is over, we will plan and inform you of our Crusade to Capitol Hill.

Kudos to all our Chapter NARFE-PAC officers for the highly impressive funds collected. As **Ross Apter**, NARFE HQ Political Associate reminds us, "...NARFE-PAC is the tool to fight back against attempts to weaken our retirement security." Please consider a contribution. You can contribute online at: <https://members.narfe.org/Support-NARFE/Support-PAC>. It will direct you to log into your NARFE account and then take you directly to the contribution page. If you need NARFE-PAC materials, just email Ross at rapter@narfe.org.

Last year, Federation President **Dr. Rountree** and I seized the opportunity to become actively engaged in visiting every single Chapter throughout our Federation. It was an exhilarating experience, especially for me, to get to meet your members who do not attend our Board meetings. It also helped me learn of our members' perspectives and aspirations to help grow and strengthen our Federation.

One common refrain was that we need to attract more members to Chapter meetings. Often indicated, was the lack of availability of dynamic speakers. This has activated us to plan to publish a **Speakers' Bureau Directory** for Chapter Presidents and Program officers. We are also excited as we initiated negotiations with the **AARP Maryland Speakers Bureau** for possible collaboration on this Directory. We acknowledge that so many of you have had extraordinary careers and avocations and we encourage you to become a Chapter speaker. You would have the flexibility for scheduling the dates, and choosing the counties and Chapters to visit. Best of all, your volunteering as a speaker would contribute to nurturing members at Chapter meetings, and reinforce the goodwill of our Federation.

A gentle reminder to all - Have you been counted in the Census 2020? **Majority Leader Congressman Steny Hoyer** met with us to emphasize the many reasons we should care that every person is counted in this **Census 2020**. It will determine how billions of Federal dollars are spent supporting Maryland, our counties and communities' vital programs. Each person counted brings in \$1,800 Federal funds per year to our communities. The count is used to reapportion our House of Representatives, determining how many seats Maryland gets. Results might change, by redrawing the boundaries of our Congressional and State districts. Seniors and Veterans were among the 20 percent undercounted in 2010. Each of us needs to reach out to friends and neighbors and folks who trust us, to ascertain that everyone has submitted their Census 2020

form by e-mail, phone, or on the paper form.

Let us make a commitment to a purpose greater than ourselves. Help us empower every member of our Federation, through your involvement and initiatives.

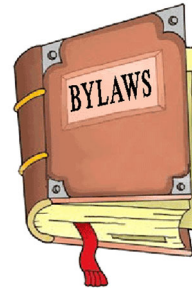
TREASURER'S REPORT



Stuart Sklamm, Treasurer
srsklamm@msn.com

Since **Stu Sklamm** recently took over the Maryland Federation Treasurer's duties, he is working hard in putting all the pieces together. You can expect a Treasurer's Report in this space in the Federation Fall 2020 Newsletter.

BYLAWS AND RESOLUTIONS REPORT



Larry Lange and Sarah Richards, Bylaws & Resolutions Co-Chairs

The Voting on the Bylaws Amendments is postponed until further notice. Because of difficulties related to the Coronavirus pandemic, the Ballot and Teller Committee members are sheltering in place and are not able to mail out the ballots to members who don't have email and to subsequently pick up returned ballots from the Post Office box in Bowie.

CENSUS 2020 CON GAMES

The 2020 Census has begun, and the scams are already showing up. Census con artists use many tactics. They might contact you by phone or email, or text you with a link to a phony website: sometimes they even show up at your house. Their goal is to get your private information and, in some cases, persuade you to send money.

How do you spot a fake? "Real census workers will never threaten a fine or jail time if you don't participate," says Amy Nofziger of the AARP Fraud Watch Network. "Nor do they ask for your Social Security number, credit card or bank account number." You can check if a census request is legitimate at census.gov. Click on surveys/programs, then on Help for survey participants. If you suspect fraud, call 800-923-8282 to talk with a Census Bureau representative or contact the police.

Information provided by: Larry Walton, SA to NARFE/MD President and President Chapter 2274, Ocean Area.



Paul Schwartz
State Legislative Committee Chair

STATE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE (SLC) REPORT

The first rule of supporting specific legislation is to have a proposed bill. During the 2020 legislative session, Senate Bill 486 and House Bill 788 were both introduced in support of decoupling federal tax returns from Maryland state tax returns. Rule one? Check.

The next rule is to garner support for the bills from key legislature members in two ways: one is to make sure we have a coherent and convincing rationale to share with key players when seeking support for the bills and, second, mobilize a grassroots movement of NARFE members/Maryland taxpayers to ensure legislators are aware that the issue is important to their constituents. Rule 2? Check. The MDNARFE state legislation homepage provides the tools to solicit support from state representatives and was extensively used.

Rule 3: Ensure there are no unexpected impediments to a successful action on the bills by the appropriate legislative committees, in this case the Senate Budget & Taxation Committee and the House Ways & Means Committee. Rule 3? See December 7, 1941, or Hindenburg, or 9/11 to get the picture. Another way of stating it: The Fiscal Note.

The problem with the fiscal note for these bills is not that it assigns a price tag of \$155 million to the bills; the problem is that it INCORRECTLY assigns a price tag of \$155 million to the two bills. Moreover, it is basically the same wording of any fiscal note dealing with the federal tax plan regardless of whether the specific bill includes adding back eliminated deductions or, as is the case with these bills, DOES NOT.

With that as an introduction to the problem, let me share with you my testimony before both the Senate and House committees; it lays out the argument for you as I hope it did for the committee members:

“My name is Paul Schwartz and I am here today representing not only NARFE, but I am also representing middle-class taxpayers in Maryland.

The most important point I will make today is this: The windfall that found its way into the Maryland State Treasury as a result of the elimination of middle-class tax deductions resulting from the passage of the Federal tax plan in December 2017 is a completely separate issue from DECOUPLING federal and state tax returns.

They are two distinct and separate issues. Please don't confuse the two. Passage of SB 486 will in no way impact your use of that windfall, estimated in the area of around \$400 million, to fund whatever you want, including Kirwan.

When President Trump announced the Federal tax plan, he said that YOU will no longer need to itemize because of the newly doubled federal standard deduction. That might work in low taxed red states, but not in high taxed blue states like Maryland. Why you ask? Because doubling the federal standard deduction for joint returns from \$12,000 to \$24,000 also came with the elimination of the personal exemption of \$4,000 each for you and your spouse – total of \$8,000.

So, you are really comparing \$24K to \$20K not \$12K, not much of a difference.

Even without the middle-class tax deductions that were eliminated or capped, middle-class Maryland taxpayers still ordinarily do better overall when they itemize on both their federal and state returns than taxing the standard for both.

I have spoken to groups across this state and whenever I ask about the results of doing it both ways – standard on both or itemize on both – the answer is almost always they did better itemizing on both even without those eliminated middle-class tax deductions that created that windfall.

That is why the **fiscal note is completely wrong**. Suffice it to say that few are running to the newly raised federal standard deduction. They are still, for the most part, itemizing as they did before to maximize their overall tax benefit.

If they itemized on their state return prior to the increased federal standard and now, with DECOUPLING, they choose to continue to itemize on their state return. HOW IS THAT A LOSS OF REVENUE?

If they do choose to take the newly increased standard on their federal return and you FORCE them to take the minuscule state standard deduction that is a revenue increase for the state BUT there is NO REVENUE LOSS from previous years.

What we have now is a situation in which taxpayers are penalized when they itemize to maximize their overall tax benefit even if their federal itemized deductions fall short of the newly increased standard deduction on the federal return.

Who does that help? NOT Maryland, not the taxpayer, only the federal treasury because, without DECOUPLING, if itemized deductions at the federal level come to, for example, \$23K and, because of no DECOUPLING, the taxpayer can't take the higher federal standard, the federal treasury gains \$1,000.

Now, the only possible additional expense has, again, nothing to do with the Maryland state windfall resulting from the elimination of deductions.

It is the need for possibly a few more auditors or software during the three-month tax season because if a taxpayer now itemizes on the state return but now, with DECOUPLING, is allowed to take the standard on the federal return, IRS algorithms would not be used for that specific situation. When I mentioned this to Lt. Gov. Boyd Rutherford, he was confident that State Comptroller Peter Franchot could make the adjustment without new hires.

The taxpayer should be entitled to itemize even without the eliminated deductions, so why FORCE them to take the state standard deduction just to avail themselves of the new federal standard?

DON'T PENALIZE MARYLAND MIDDLE-CLASS TAXPAYERS FOR ITEMIZING ON THEIR STATE RETURNS. Passage of HB 788 will send a very positive message to your taxpaying/voting constituency.

Of note, the Maryland Association of CPA's has supported DECOUPLING.

Editor's Note: At the time of publication, Maryland HB788 (Income Tax – Itemized Deductions) did not get out of The Ways and Means Committee to be voted on by the General Assembly.

MEMBERSHIP



Edward Reed

2nd Vice President, Membership



Recruit Prospective Members!

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

My opening membership remarks center on "A Chapter's Membership Plan" and are taken directly from NARFE's "CHAPTER AND FEDERATION OFFICERS MANUAL" – F-10 (01/18) pg.-10, Titled: "MEMBERSHIP." This committee is responsible for developing a strategic plan for the prospecting and recruitment of eligible candidates for NARFE membership and the retention of current members. A membership plan should include goals and objectives with desired outcomes; volunteers needed for successful implementation; funds required for inclusion in the budget; and a tracking system for measuring results.

A well-designed membership strategic plan is key and may provide the cornerstone for growing a chapter, and keeping it active and viable in pursuing NARFE's mission. The agreed-upon plan should be brought before the chapter membership for approval." This process may require a committee to accomplish it successfully.

Your chapter's Membership Chair or Coordinator should be prepared to report to your chapter's members, regularly (In print via a newsletter or at all Membership Meetings): Any needed review of "Chapter's membership activities that might aid in Recruitment/Membership Growth and any chapter financial projects as needed." The Membership Chair/Coordinator helps a chapter's leaders in the preparation of a "Membership Marketing Plan" by:

- Developing a membership recruitment, prospecting and retention strategy plan at least annually. This strategy should guide all membership growth activities.
- Recruiting and prospecting actively within communities by participating in health fairs, pre-retirement seminars, conventions, etc.
- Actively working to retain and reinstate members dropped for nonpayment of dues.
- Advertising (again, in print via newsletter) Dues Withholding and Life Membership programs.

The Membership Chair/Coordinator should regularly: Use the current [NARFE.org](https://www.narfe.org) Officer's Activity Module to review and manage a chapter's membership. Always remember: "NARFE members have always been key in recruitment and retention." "NARFE members have also been key in dramatically expanding your chapter's prospecting efforts." Prospecting is the effort to find and acquire contact information for "likely" new NARFE members, for your chapter. A Membership Chair/Coordinator's best resource for recruiting and retaining membership is "The Recruiting and Retention Journal," published quarterly to all chapter Membership Chairs/Coordinators.

I conclude with words from Robert Jacobs, Membership Chair, Chapter 2262, Upper Marlboro, Md., which I found most helpful. Bob said, "Each of us must work toward the common goal of growing NARFE Membership, especially at the chapter level, if we are to remain viable. Share your *NARFE Magazine* with others or place a notice in your local paper or church/daycare/grocery store bulletin. Dues Withholding is the best deal for paying your dues. It works out to be just over

\$3/month from your annuity (If retired). There is also a lifetime membership option. The life membership offers a hedge against future dues increases; it will get you out of the renewal loop and save you money. I stress these two forms of membership as: Excellent Retention of all chapter members. There is a new (Maryland) trifold entitled, "What You Need to Know about NARFE", that is intended to help in your recruitment efforts."

That's it, for now. Let's ALL think: Membership/Recruitment (especially our Active U.S.P.S. Personnel) & Retention!



Patricia Farmer, Secretary



SECRETARY'S REPORT

As the NARFE/MD representative to the Maryland Gerontological Association (MGA) Board, I am disappointed to report that the MGA Board decided to postpone its Annual Conference from April 30 to June 17, 2020, because of the ongoing health crisis with the Coronavirus pandemic. The MGA Board will decide to move it again if necessary.

Even though we have cancelled our May Federation Mini-Conference, I will still update the Maryland Federation Directory for May 2020 since there have been a lot of changes. I will email the file to the Executive Committee members, Region II VP, Committee Chairs and Chapter Presidents. If we can't see each other during this scary and dangerous health crisis, we can keep in touch with each other by e-mail and phone.

I am so pleased to have Virginia Bender as part of the Federation secretarial team. She is one of the members who filled in for me in Ocean City, when I wasn't able to be there for the Executive Committee meeting because of another conference commitment. She did a thorough and professional job with the assigned minutes. Virginia and I will work out how best she can help me with the secretarial load. Welcome to your new Federation assignment, Virginia!

All of you, our members, are in my prayers for your safety and good health during this Coronavirus pandemic.

FYI: Due to the current Coronavirus pandemic and resulting closures and restrictions, **the submission deadline for nominations to the Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame has been extended to May 31, 2020.** The MSCHF Board thanks you if you have already submitted a nomination, and with the extension you may have time to submit another one. If you have not considered nominating someone, you may have time to do it now.

Let Secretary Pat Farmer know if you need a nomination form.

REGION II VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

KATHY ADAMS

**REGION II
VICE PRESIDENT**



Editor's Note: At the time of publication, the York Training Academy has been postponed until Sept. 23 and 24, 2020.

NARFE will be 100 years old in 2021. We will celebrate this big event on June 21, 2021 at the Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill, 400 New Jersey Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001. June 21-23, 2021 will be the dates of LEGcon for that year at the same location. So, please save the dates.

Planning is well underway for NARFE's national annual conference, FEDcon20, taking place at the Westin Kierland Resort and Spa, August 30 - September 1, 2020, in Scottsdale, Arizona. This premier event takes NARFE's mission to the next level with leadership workshops and education sessions. Yes, two and a half days of thought-provoking speakers, legislative updates, leadership and advocacy training, intensive benefit education, membership recruitment ideas, and the opportunity to engage and connect with friends and many new federal colleagues as well.

I would also like to provide some information about the Training Academy in York, Pa., on June 1 and 2, 2020. Many members have already booked their rooms. The registration fee of \$99.00 includes three meals, speakers from Headquarters, live entertainment and breakout sessions the next day. This Academy will be held at the Wyndham Garden Hotel, 2000 Loucks Road, York, PA 17408. Phone number is 717-846-9500. Hope to see many of you there.

Submission deadline for NARFE's 2020 Photo Contest is April 7, 2020. You may submit up to five photos.

As most of you know the NEB (National Executive Board) meeting, scheduled for March 2020, has been canceled due to the virus. The Executive Director of NARFE has provided helpful guidance to NARFE members.

Please be safe and take the advice of the Executive Staff.



Eleanor Kaul
 Coordinator, Federal Employee and Education Assistance – Scholarships and Disaster Fund
 Coordinator, Alzheimer’s Research Fund
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NARFE Scholarship Awards
 or Disaster Fund
 c/o FEEA
 3333 S. Wadsworth Blvd., Suite 300
 Lakewood, CO 80227

NARFE-FEEA UPDATE

The 2020 Federal Employees Education and Assistance (FEEA) Scholarship Program is open to high school seniors who are children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of NARFE members. One \$1,000 scholarship is awarded in each Region. The form and information are only available online at scholarship@narfe.org. The 2020 deadline was March 25, 2020, at 3:00 pm EDT.

There have been eight scholarship winners in Maryland since 2014.

At the May 2019 Conference, a raffle raised \$600, with \$150 to each of two winners and \$300 to FEEA.

Over the last six years, we have donated \$3,165 for FEEA scholarships via our raffles at our conferences. Thank you for supporting our future leaders.

As the nation reacts to the Coronavirus pandemic, FEEA has gathered a variety of federal government and other national resources that might be helpful to feds and their families. FEEA will update with additional resources as the situation continues to change. Visit FEEA at: <https://www.feea.org/coronavirus> for resources.

ALZHEIMER’S REPORT

These are the three highest chapter donations for 2019.

- \$4,000 Chapter 696 St. Mary’s
- \$1,164 Chapter 2274 Ocean Area
- \$ 626 Chapter 1734 Howard County

Make the check payable to NARFE-Alzheimer’s Research and mail to me, Eleanor Kaul, 8934 Executive Club Drive, Delmar, MD 21875.

For Chapters who participate in the “Walk to End Alzheimer’s,” send me a COPY of the check so I can add that amount to your donations for 2020.

I have been able to purchase the Alzheimer’s stamp; others have not. Check with your local post office. At this time, I have not heard whether or not the USPS has approved the sale of the stamp.



Edward Holland

Program Director / Public Relations Director / Liaison to MD/DC Alliance for Retired Americans / Liaison to Fraternal Order of Police
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PROGRAM REPORT

At the February 6, 2020 EXCOM Meeting, it was moved and voted to change the Program Committee to a Directorate. This was done because of the Committee members' interaction with U.S. government executives, military generals, and other high-level persons who are accustomed to dealing with a peer.

As the Program Director, 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.

Please know that you are part of the Program Committee. Meaning that you should feel free to provide me with a name and contact information for an engaging speaker. The speaker should be someone that you would want to hear from. Recently, Dr. Gary Roundtree and Assistant Treasurer/Budget Officer Dave Roseman confirmed that the Program Directorate has a dedicated budget.

For the May 4-5 Mini-Conference, Deputy Program Director Tom Hill and I secured: Mr. Eric Hirschhorn, Former-Under Secretary, U.S. Department of Commerce (Obama); Mr. Walter F. (Pete) Landon, Director, Maryland Office of Homeland Security (Hogan); Mr. Josh Kurtz, Editor, *Maryland Matters*. Also, Deputy Program Director Hill was asked by a National Security Agency senior staffer if the May 4-5 was still on, which led us to believe that one of the two speakers we requested, National Security Agency Director Paul Nakasone, or Mr. David Imbordino, the NSA Election Security Lead and Co-Lead of the Joint (NSA and Cybercom) Election Security Group, was going to be available to speak at the mini-conference.

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

At the February 6, 2020 EXCOM Meeting, it was moved and voted to change the Public Relations Committee to a Directorate. This was done because of the interaction with editors and other high-level persons who are accustomed to dealing with a peer.

As the Public Relations Director, 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. As it stands, this office is now on NARFE MD Press Release 009-2019. If your president has not forwarded a press release to you, please contact me at hollandnmd@aol.com.

Moreover, Deputy Public Relations Director Tom Hill and I sent over 20 letters to the editor asking Marylanders to complete a form letter—provided by Pat Farmer—reminding our legislators that Maryland is a high-taxed state.

MD/DC ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED AMERICANS

During the Coronavirus concerns, the ARA continues to meet but via teleconference. The next teleconferences will be on April 15, and May 20. Please let me know if you want to bring up an issue on the call. Also, our annual assessment is due to the ARA Treasurer. This will be taken from the Program budget.

FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

On March 11, I was appointed to chair the DC Lodge’s newly created Veterans Committee. This is a committee that a few of us have been trying to get off the ground since 2018. In addition, I was re-appointed to the Lodge’s Legislative and Constitution/Bylaws Committees. How does this help NARFE? With nearly 11,000 members, the Lodge members definitely know that I’m “the NARFE guy.”

A transition in thinking: Result ...

Money-saving mailing of chapter newsletters

Article by Ron Shansby, President, Chapter 1887, Wheaton-Glenmont

Our Transition ...

In the not-so-distant past, our chapter used to spend lots of money in producing our newsletter and lots of time and expense in mailing it. But we got smart when our funds started to dwindle. Here is our story.

- 1. What we used to do.** We used to pay a printer \$130 a month for printing about 250 copies of our newsletter. Then all the executive board would sit down and tape the newsletters and affix labels to all of them--one hour for a total of six of us--that's six hours total. By the way, labels from NARFE cost us some \$20 for each newsletter. Then one or two of us drove from Wheaton to the Gaithersburg Post Office so we could take advantage of the bulk rate for mailing the newsletters. Total cost for the bulk was some \$35. Total so far was about \$185. Our time for labelling and the drive, to and from, was two to three hours--plus the six people hours for labelling. Plus, gas! Then we realized that this approach was using up our treasury--and was a waste of our time.
- 2. What we do now.** How could we save money and time? That was our concern. We decided that if member had email, we would not send them hard copies. We made an assessment and found that about 50 of our members did not have email and were not agreeable to pairing up with someone who did have email. We also explored printing the newsletter ourselves, and we happened upon Staples (other places give us the same opportunity, as well).
- 3. Analysis of cost, time, and effort.** Now once I have the email of the newsletter, I spend a few minutes making minor changes and formatting it for reproduction—about a half hour. I also print out the labels we need—at a cost of about \$1. Then I print out, at home, a single copy for reproduction, and tape the pages together for

printing. Then I go to Staples and print 50 copies in about 20 minutes. Cost = \$19. Taking them home, I fold and tape them. Less than one hour. Then I drive to the nearby Post Office, buy first-class stamps (no more bulk mailing), and affix them to the newsletters--15 minutes; cost is \$25. Total of costs is \$45. Pretty good compared with \$185. And the time, for myself, is around two hours, and no significant driving! And no one else has to be involved. Efficiency and economy!

- 4. **My recommendation.** Doing what we do now has been beneficial. We have cut the costs from \$185 to \$45 per newsletter. We have also cut the time for labelling, travel, and mailing from two to three hours, plus six people hours for the labelling, a total of 8 to 9 hours--to two hours for just one person. Yes, the whole process can be done by one person in just about two hours' time.

That's all, and the story above is our recommendation. High marks for cost and time cutting!

AROUND THE FEDERATION

FALL BOARD MEETING OF THE MARYLAND FEDERATION – FEBRUARY 7, 2020 – BOWIE

Photos by Melinda Scott, Federation Photographer



Major General Omar Jones IV, Commander U.S. Army Military District of Washington and the Joint Force Headquarters National Capitol Region - Feb. 7 speaker



Feb. 7 luncheon speaker Congressman David Trone, (MD-06)



(L-R) New Assistant Treasurer Dave Roseman and new Federation Parliamentarian Sam Raines pose with President Dr. Gary Roundtree Sr. after he installed them.



View of the attendees at the Feb. 7 Board meeting.

FEDERATION DIRECTORY

Executive Committee

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Past President	Ron Bowers	410-308-0420	narfebowers@msn.com

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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
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1519 Glen Burnie, Co-Presidents	Don Bender		
1519	Bob Minghini Sr.		

***NOTE:** See Federation Directory for complete information on all officers, committee chairs and chapter presidents.

The Maryland Federation Newsletter is published three times a year: Spring, Fall, Winter by the Maryland Federation of NARFE,
P.O. Box 3527, Laurel, MD 20709

Editor: Patricia Farmer, 301-776-4645, buttonspaf@aol.com.

Distribution: Pat Farmer (Temporarily) – Need Volunteer

Editorial Review: NARFE/MD President Dr. Gary Roundtree Sr. and Robert Kammer, Chapter 1892 Aspen Hill

*****NOTE BELOW ON NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION*****

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



National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

Maryland Federation – Chartered April 5, 1956 Maryland Federation Newsletter

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2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| May 3 | CANCELLED: Executive Committee Meeting, 3-6 p.m., Bowie |
| May 4 / 5 | CANCELLED: Two-day Mini-Conference, Bowie Comfort Inn |
| July 24 | Deadline for articles for Federation Fall Newsletter |
| Sept.23 / 24 | Region II Training Academy, York, Pa. |
| Oct. 4 | Executive Committee Meeting, 2-6 p.m., Bowie Comfort Inn |
| Oct. 5 | NARFE/MD Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p. m., Bowie |