



NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES



Volume 12, Issue 4

Hagerstown MD

September 2020

From the Desk of the President

NARFE Members

This is our first Chapter Newsletter in awhile and I hope you are all safe and doing well.

We are holding a Chapter Leadership Meeting on September 4 at Veterans Park in Smithsburg. The park provides an opportunity for us to meet and social distancing. We will keep you updated on any actions taken at the meeting.

The MD Federation Newsletter was sent out by Pat Farmer, MD Federation Secretary via email. If you don't have access to email you should receive a hard copy soon in the mail. In addition to Federation business, the Newsletter has an article about TSP COVID-19 Hardship loans for those who qualify. It also has information about voting for upcoming changes to the NARFE bylaws. The ballot will appear in the August 2020 NARFE magazine.

NARFE Chapter Leadership staff has agreed to stay on for another two years until June 2022. In addition to myself as President, Ed Reed is Vice President, Barb Ware is Secretary, and Pandi Reed is Treasurer.

Thank you and many thanks to our support staff,

Patricia Nix, President, NARFE Hagerstown Chapter 306

Treasurer's Report

March 23, 2020	Balance		\$1,310.72
		Credits	\$ 374.99
		Expenses	<u>\$ 381.42</u>
Aug. 4, 2020	Balance		\$1,304.29

P. Reed, Treasurer

Secretary's Report for September 2020 Newsletter

- Sadly, Hagerstown Chapter 306 was unable to attend the July 2020 performance at Totem Pole Playhouse because of COVID-19. Totem Pole cancelled its entire schedule for this year but is planning to reopen for the 2021 season. As I learn more about their 2021 season, I will keep you informed.
- Also because of the pandemic, our traditional August Summer Lunch Out did not take place. What a bummer! Hopefully we can Lunch Out as a group in August 2021!
- Hopefully each of you has been able to keep safe during these difficult times. Please take care and be well!

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Ware, Secretary

SERVICE OFFICER REPORT

Reverse mortgages "saw a surge in popularity" as a response the most recent major financial crisis before the present one and today's homeowners "facing financial struggles under the current economic crisis caused by the Coronavirus pandemic might also be considering a reverse mortgage to supplement their income," the Government Accountability Office has said.

"While they can be used as financial tools to allow older homeowners to stay in their homes, they come with risks," it added in an online posting.

Reverse mortgages allow homeowners to essentially borrow against the value of the home. Unlike a standard mortgage, they do not require a borrower to repay the loan as long as they meet certain conditions. Also unlike standard mortgages they do not have fixed terms but instead the loan is in place until the borrower dies, pays off the loan, sells the home or defaults.

The GAO stressed that a borrower who defaults, however, is at risk of losing the home to foreclosure. It noted that a default can be declared for a number of reasons, including that failure to pay property taxes or homeowners insurance, failure to keep the home in good repair, or no longer using the home as a primary residence.

It cited a report it issued in 2019 finding that defaults accounted for 18 percent of terminations of reverse mortgages the prior year, "mostly due to borrowers failing to meet occupancy requirements or paying property taxes and insurance."

It noted that most reverse mortgages are administered by a subagency of the Federal Housing Administration, which it said "could do a better job evaluating the performance of its reverse mortgage program and overseeing the companies that service these loans."

While the FHA allows loan servicers to put borrowers who are behind on property charges onto repayment plans to help prevent foreclosures, only 22 percent of such borrowers had received that option, it added.

Most Retirees Never Move to New Home, Study Finds

Other Potential Sources of Retirement Cash

Considerations for Borrowing in Retirement

Tom Brudenell, Service Officer

SPECIAL RAFFLE REPORT The Special Raffle winners were drawn on July 21,2020 for the 4 months we missed having a meeting. The checks were sent to the winners to wrap up the unfinished business. Now we are planning to continue this fund raiser for the next year starting in September, 2020 through June 2021. One entry form will be in this newsletter and for those who want 6 or more send the check and address labels to me and I will be glad to take care of that for you. Forms may be returned by mail to the Coordinator; Dorothy C. Smith, 1058 Matthew Ct. , Hagerstown, MD 21742-3156. Please help with this fund raiser because it benefits you the members with our newsletter to let you know what is happening at NARFE in these troubling times. Thank you!

Dorothy C. Smith, Raffle Chair.

SPECIAL ANNUAL RAFFLE ENTRY

PRINT NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Phone number (s) ____ - ____ - ____ Or ____ - ____ - ____

Attached is payment of \$ ____ for ____ entries

\$5.00 for 1 ENTRY; \$14.00 FOR 3 ENTRIES; \$25.00 FOR 6 ENTRIES

MONTHLY PRIZE \$25.00

Starting September 2020

Through June 2021 (10 months)

Make payment to: NARFE Chapter 306, 2020-2021 Annual Raffle
Forms may be returned at monthly meetings or by mail to the Coordinator.
Dorothy C Smith 1058 Matthew Ct. Hagerstown MD 21742-3156

Legislation//Important-Voting-Information:

The Maryland NARFE Federation Recommends (After 2-Hours of Deliberation/Discussion by Executive-Leadership) - "Rejecting" - Only The (7) Following Proposals (On the National NARFE Voting Ballot Included In The August NARFE Magazine & Electronically:
B007 .. B009 .. B2011 .. B2017 .. B2020 .. S2005 -&- NEB-01.

REMEMBER: "One-Member-One-Vote" ... You May Vote For Whichever You Wish, --BUT-- "PLEASE-VOTE" !! Thank-You !!

V/R-Ed Reed, Hagerstown-Chapter-V.P./For: Legislation -&- NARFE-PAC-P.O.C.

ALZHEIMER'S REPORT

Since members of Hagerstown Chapter 306 have been unable to support Alzheimer's directly through our chapter this year, I thought about how we could participate through the annual WALK to End Alzheimer's. Because of the COVID-19 crisis, this year's *WALK to End Alzheimer's* will be quite different. No one from Hagerstown Chapter 306 will be participating that we know of, but I have been in touch with Kathy Siggins, our friend from the Frederick Chapter. Below is what she has shared with me. If you would like to support Kathy and her Team HOPE, a check made payable to Alzheimer's Association can be sent to Kathy Siggins at 13001 Purdum Court, Mt. Airy, MD 21771, or you can go to the *WALK to End Alzheimer's* website and click on TEAMS; Kathy's is Team HOPE and you can contribute. All monies received by Team HOPE go directly to Alzheimer's and will be recorded as contributions from NARFE! Thank you for your consideration of this.

Barb Ware

My family and I continue to walk in memory of my late husband Gene, beloved father and grandfather who battled Alzheimer's for 13 years and passed away on January 24, 1999. This year I realize that raising money for this worthy cause is going to be a real challenge for all of us due to the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on family, friends, neighbors and my community who have been very supportive of my efforts for the past 26 years. As I begin to prepare for the walk in October, my hope is that our nation will be healed enough to come together safely to participate in the largest national fundraising event hosted by the Alzheimer's Association which is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support and research. The walk is scheduled to take place at 11 a.m. on Sunday, October 11, at the Nymeo Harry Grove Stadium in Frederick. Please consider joining me and Team HOPE as we physically or possibly virtually walk in support of families living with Alzheimer's disease. If possible, and at your convenience, I respectfully ask if you could consider sponsoring me in the walk by making a tax-deductible contribution to the Alzheimer's Association on my behalf. Any amount is greatly appreciated, and can be made online by visiting my donation web page. If you prefer, please make your check payable to the Alzheimer's Association and mail to my attention. I know first-hand how important local Alzheimer's chapters are to families living in our communities who are looking for vital information on care and support. This is why I am committed to do all I can to help support the Alzheimer's cause. And why I will be walking in my 27th WALK to End Alzheimer's. Thank you and please stay safe!

Kathy Siggins

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