

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

November/December 2020

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

*Lois Ann Beaver, President*

While we pray for it to end, the Covid-19 Pandemic continues. Meanwhile we are following all guidance and looking forward to learning from our health experts about the availability of an effective vaccine and recommended virus treatment. In order to avoid another issue, we are getting a flu vaccine. We had hoped that we would be able to have an in-person Chapter Holiday Party in early December. After thorough consideration by your Chapter 258's Board, it was decided that, for the health and safety of our Chapter members and their families and friends, we would not have a Chapter Holiday Party this year. Please continue to take care of yourselves, and to follow all the recommended actions by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for dealing with this insidious pandemic. We'll all look forward to that time in 2021 when we'll be able to resume meeting in person again.

Rather than meeting in November in order to prepare for the Federal Benefits 2020 Open Season (Nov. 9 to Dec. 14), we will do some research. There is advice in the October 2020 issue, (pages 56 to 60). By E-mail dated October 16th, National NARFE advised that the FEHBP rates for 2021 will not be published in the November issue of the narfe magazine as they usually are, since OPM did not provide that information in time for publication of that November issue; as soon as these rates are received, NARFE Headquarters will post them on the NARFE website. The full rate information will go into the December issue of the narfe magazine. You can view insurance plan brochures online at [www.opm.gov/healthcare-insurance/healthcare/plan-information/plans/](http://www.opm.gov/healthcare-insurance/healthcare/plan-information/plans/). Also, you can view benefit plans at [www.fepblue.org](http://www.fepblue.org) and [www.actnafeds.com](http://www.actnafeds.com).

## NEWS FROM THE NARFE MARYLAND FEDERATION

Here is an important statement by President Dr. Gary Roundtree

Sr. taken from the 2020 Fall MD Federation Newsletter: "This will be my last President's Message for the Federation Newsletter. I will be assuming the Region II Vice President position as of January 1st. I ran unopposed, so members who voted for NARFE officers didn't see me on the ballot because no one ran against me. I will be providing articles to future Federation Newsletters in that role, as well as attending Federation meetings to bring information from Region II. You will be in good hands with Dr. Sudha. The next election of Federation Officers will be in the spring of 2021." You can find this newsletter in the Maryland Federation section at [www.mdnarfe.org](http://www.mdnarfe.org).

The NARFE Maryland Federation held a virtual Board Meeting on October 5th during which Dr. Gary installed Dr. Sudha Haley as President and Larry Walton from Chapter 1972 as 1st VP. An invocation and moment of silence in remembrance of Dick Strombotne, a key member of Chapter 258, was carried out by Chaplain Larry Lange. See more information in this Buzz. In the News & Events section at [www.mdnarfe.org](http://www.mdnarfe.org) you can find the meeting agenda, info on the 2021 State Legislative Program Pamphlet and the 2020 Federation Bylaws Results. It is likely that a report on the Board Meeting will eventually appear on this site. Membership, a topic of particular importance to our Chapter was presented by Ed Reed, Federation 2nd VP/Membership Director who provided us with membership applications, information and noted that there would be a prize of \$75 to the top MD Recruiter. Ed urged that we use E-mail, Twitter, Facebook & E-Blasts to "Seek Out Prospective New NARFE Members." A copy of a NARFE Membership Application is included in this Buzz. It is in your interest to fill in the Recruiter's Name section with your name and your NARFE membership number (found on the mailing label on the outside of your narfe magazine) before distributing the form. Also, I would suggest that you advise a potential new member to visit [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org) and to select Membership in order to read about the benefits before they send in the form that you provide.

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## IN MEMORIAM – DICK STROMBOTNE

*Larry Lange, Treasurer*

NARFE has lost one of its most dedicated, hardworking members ever in the history of our organization. Dick worked tirelessly on behalf of NARFE's Maryland chapters, our state's Federation, and national NARFE, and he will be greatly missed by all who knew and worked with him. He passed away, after a long illness, on August 25, 2020, at the age of 87. Dick graduated with a Bachelor's of Arts from Claremont California's Pomona College, and earned his masters degree, and his doctorate, both in Physics, at the Berkeley campus of the University of California. He joined the staff of the Radio Standards Laboratory, part of what is now the National Bureau of Standards, in Boulder, Colorado in 1961; in 1968 he transferred to the U.S. Department of Transportation, working in the office of the Secretary, and in 1977 he transferred to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration where he worked until his retirement in 1996. His professional accomplishments were many and incredibly impressive.

Dick and his wife Marty celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in August of 2012. Their four adult children, Laura, Mark, Tom, and Brian, joined them in this happy and auspicious occasion. Dick and Marty have several grand children and great grand children.

Dick joined NARFE in 1996; he attended all of Maryland's NARFE Federation's conventions, and NARFE's national conventions, having authored several resolutions which were adopted at national conventions. He also served twice on the national convention's Legislation Committee, and ran as a candidate for NARFE's National Treasurer. Dick served as president of the Gaithersburg NARFE Chapter 581 from 2002 to 2004, and was President of NARFE's Maryland Federation. On numerous occasions Dick gave testimony before the Maryland General Assembly on issues of importance to NARFE. Maryland Governor Ehrlich appointed Dick, as NARFE's representative, to the Maryland Elderly Migration Task Force in 2004. Dick was inducted into the Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame, and additionally received the Care One Blue Cross Blue Shield Distinguished Annuitant Award.

Dick's wife Marty also has worked ceaselessly for their NARFE Chapters, and for the MD Federation. Together they formed a team that all levels of NARFE owe an extreme offer of gratitude for all their work for NARFE, and for being an example of truly exemplary outstanding members of NARFE.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

*Larry Lange, Treasurer*

My last Treasurer's Report appeared in the May/June 2020 issue of The BUZZ. This report will be a synopsis of our Chapter's funds from April 6, 2020 to October 5, 2020: Chapter 258, Funds Summary, October 5, 2020

Checking account balance, 4/6/2020	\$ 12,442.14
Receipts, 4/6/2020 - 10/5/2020	\$ 1,743.56
Expenses, 4/6/2020 - 10/5/2020	\$ 1,910.33
Checking account balance, 10/5/2020	\$ 12,275.37

Working Capital/Total Chapter assets	\$ 12,275.37
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## NARFE EVENTS IN 2021

*Larry Lange, Treasurer*

It is very likely that most Maryland NARFE and National NARFE events well into 2021 will be done virtually because of the ongoing pandemic. Three upcoming events in the New Year that are being planned are: the Maryland Federation meeting in February; the MD Federation's Biennial Conference, usually in Ocean City, Maryland, in May; and National NARFE's 100th Anniversary Celebration, currently planned for June, 2021, which was to have been held at the Capitol Hill Hilton in Washington, DC. No doubt most, if not all, of these and other NARFE events will be done in some kind of virtual format.

Please watch for future issues of the National narfe magazine and our Chapter's BUZZ newsletter to update our Chapter members on these and other Maryland NARFE issues and events.

Also, we suggest that our members regularly check the Maryland Federation's website, [www.mdnarfe.org](http://www.mdnarfe.org) and the National NARFE website, [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org) for continuing updates for all NARFE events that are being planned for 2021. If you have not already done so, please set up a user name for yourself (which, if you wish, can be your full E-mail address) and password to enable you to have access to all the extensive information that the National NARFE website has to offer. Just go to the National NARFE website homepage and click on "LOG IN" to the right of the large NARFE logo at the top of the webpage; then at the next screen click on "Sign In," and follow the few easy steps to set up your user name and password.



## Active and Retired Federal Employees ... Join NARFE Today!

The only organization dedicated solely to protecting and preserving the benefits of all federal workers and retirees, NARFE informs you of any developments and proposals that affect your compensation, retirement and health benefits, AND provides clear answers to your questions.

### Who Should Join NARFE?

If your future security is tied to federal retirement benefits—federal retirees, current employees, spouses and individual survivors—you should join NARFE.

### NARFE MEMBER BENEFITS

- Access the NARFE Federal Benefits Institute for powerful resources to help you fully understand and manage your benefits.
- Visit the Legislative Action Center to contact your representatives about bills affecting federal benefits.
- Get monthly issues of *NARFE Magazine* with news and insights for the federal community.
- Visit the Member Perks page for a full listing of the many time-, money- and hassle-saving benefits available only to NARFE members.
- The opportunity to get involved at the local level by joining a chapter in your area.

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## NARFE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

☐ **YES. I want to join NARFE for the low annual dues of \$40.**

☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Miss ☐ Ms.

Full Name

Street Address

Apt./Unit

City

State

ZIP

Phone

Email

**I am a (check all that apply)**

- ☐ Active Federal Employee ☐ Active Federal Employee Spouse  
☐ Annuitant ☐ Annuitant Spouse ☐ Survivor Annuitant

☐ **Please enroll my spouse**

Spouse's Full Name

Spouse's Email

### THREE EASY WAYS TO JOIN

1. **Complete this application** and mail with your payment to NARFE Member Services / 606 N Washington St / Alexandria, VA 22314-1914.
2. Join online at **www.NARFE.org**.
3. **Call 800-456-8410**, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET.

### PAYMENT OPTIONS

- ☐ Check, Money Order or Bill Pay (Payable to NARFE)  
☐ Bill me (NARFE membership will start when payment is received.)  
☐ Charge my:  
☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA ☐ Discover ☐ AMEX

Card No.

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_  
mm yyyy

Name on Card

Signature

Date

### TOTAL DUES

\$40 Annual Dues X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
Per Person # Enrolling Total Dues

*Dues payments are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes.*

**LOOKING TO MEET OTHERS** in the federal community and participate in NARFE at a local level? Call 800-456-8410 to learn about a NARFE chapter in your area.

Would you like to receive a FREE one-year chapter membership? Choose one:

☐ Chapter closest to home OR ☒ Chapter # 258

**MAY WE THANK SOMEONE?** Did someone introduce you to NARFE? Please provide their Name and Member ID.

Recruiter's Name

Recruiter's Membership ID

*NARFE respects the privacy of our members. Personal information is used to provide content and relevant communications to our members, and will not be sold or rented to third parties.*

(0719)

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**THIS IS YOUR CHAPTER 258 NEWSLETTER**  
**PLEASE READ !! ☺**

## Chapter Officers

### President

**Lois Ann Beaver** 240-447-2054

### 1st Vice President

**Allan Kam** 301-469-0352  
akam@htsassociates.com

### 2nd Vice President

**Constance Price** 301-657-2625

### Secretary

**VACANT**

### Treasurer

**Larry Lange** 301-525-4415  
llange3751@aol.com

### Service Officer

**Helen Berkson** 301-881-1168

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

## Committee Chairs

### Public Relations

**Suzanne Ackerman** 301-588-6206  
suzword@gmail.com

### Newsletter

**Larry Lange** 301-525-4415  
llange3751@aol.com

### Federal Legislation

**VACANT**

### State Legislation

**Dave Roseman** 240-401-6628  
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### Programs

**Lois Beaver** 240-447-2054

### Allan Kam

301-469-0352  
akam@htsassociates.com

### Awards

**VACANT**

### United Seniors of Maryland

**Dave Roseman** 240-401-6628  
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## Membership VACANT

### Alzheimer's

**George Perez**  
George.E.Perez@gmail.com

## Congressional Delegation

Senator Chris Van Hollen, Jr.  
202-224-4654

Senator Benjamin L. Cardin  
202-224-4524

Representative Jamie Raskin (MD-8)  
202-225-5341

Representative David Trone (MD-6)  
202-225-2721