

## **WINTER 2020/2021 NEWSLETTER**

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**



**Dr. Gary Roundtree Sr.**

### **President's Farewell Address**

Dear Fellow NARFE/MD Members,

Please allow me to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. I hope each one of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving Day.

It has been an exciting four years serving you as the Maryland Federation President. As I prepare to assume the duties of the Regional Vice President for Region II on January 1, 2021, please join me in thanking our current RVP Kathy Adams for her superb two years of service to our region as RVP II of the Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and District of Columbia Federations. I would also like to commend the Executive Committee, Committee Chairs, Chapter Presidents and MD FED Staff for making the Maryland Federation the premier federation to go to for federal employees' needs and assistance.

As new leadership has been chosen to lead the Maryland Federation to newer heights by the MD FED Bylaws and Executive Board, in the coming days ahead, please continue to support and serve the leadership of incoming officers: Dr. Sudha Haley as President, Larry Walton as 1<sup>st</sup> VP, Ed Reed as 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Pat Farmer as Secretary and Stuart Sklamm as Treasurer. They all serve from their heart and with passion for NARFE.

Serving as the Maryland Federation President has been one of the great honors of my life. With such great and awesome members and friends, I will cherish the time we had at Executive Committee meetings and dinners, board meetings, state conferences and LEGcon, National Conferences and Region II Training Symposiums.

As we continue to battle the pandemic, until the new vaccine is distributed, let us continue to be mindful of others and practice social distancing and mask wearing to protect our families, neighbors and friends as the holidays are upon us.

In closing, let us all remember that first we are all Americans who love this great country called the United States of America, Land of the Free, Home of the Brave.

*DR. GARY ROUNDTREE SR.*



**Screenshot of President Dr. Gary Roundtree Sr. presiding at home at his last official NARFE/MD meeting, the October 5, 2020 Board Meeting held virtually via Zoom.**

**OCTOBER 5, 2020 GUEST SPEAKERS**



**ERIC HIRSCHHORN  
Former under Secretary, U.S. Dept. of Commerce**



**WALTER F. "Pete" LANDON  
Deputy Chief of Staff and Director, Office of  
Homeland Security (Hogan Administration)**

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*Dr. Sudha Haley*

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

## **FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

A new day is dawning in America for Indian-American women. I am humbled and honored to be part of our history. In January 2021, as we inaugurate our United States Vice President Kamala Harris, you will also make history with your first Indian-American woman NARFE Maryland Federation President. In addition, Vice President-elect Biden has chosen an Indian-American woman to lead his OPM Transition Team.

As your current Vice President, with the visionary and inspiring guidance and support of our President **Dr. Gary Roundtree** and the wisdom and expertise you have bestowed on me, I have dedicated the past years to tirelessly serving each of you, combined with my passion for the NARFE Mission. Together we have advocated for NARFE-valued legislation with our diligent Senate and Congressional District Leaders on Capitol Hill, in District offices, and our State Leaders in Annapolis. We advanced NARFE's Mission with integrity, mutual respect, transparency and accountability. When Lawmakers see our SLs, CDLs, and State Leaders, they acknowledge the Face of NARFE.

Last year, after each of your Chapter Presidents invited me, with Dr. Gary, to speak at your Chapter meetings and to gain insight from your Chapter members, I championed your priorities and followed through with action. In January 2021, when I become our Federation's President, I intend to continue our meaningful dialog we started on those visits to each of your Chapters. However, these grassroots, thoughtful conversations will have to be virtual, through Zoom, with the assistance of our Federation's Tech Guru **Flash Gordon**. I am therefore, requesting that your Chapter President and Program Chair inform me when, from January through May 2021, you would want to invite me to spend half an hour with you at your Chapter meeting. Your ideas and talents will build a positive and solid foundation for our Federation's future Vision. As we have for years displayed with Dr. Gary, Dan McGrath, Ted Jensen and other Presidents' Leadership, we are trailblazers among all the NARFE State Federations. With our innovative initiatives, we will continue to take the lead, and showcase our Federation's activities. I promise, during my tenure as your President, to solicit and act on your input and enhance the Federation's quality of services to you.

As you must have concluded by now, our February 1, 2021, Board meeting will be virtual. This May we are planning to convene our Federation Conference in-person, at the Dunes Manor Hotel in Ocean City. Your thoughts on these decisions would be welcomed by me and our Executive Committee. We are also hearing from NARFE Headquarters that they will make their decision on the type of National Legislative Conference (LEGcon) they will convene in June 2021. In addition, our strategy to celebrate our NARFE Centennial Gala in June 2021, is currently being deliberated. Meanwhile, we will continue to capitalize and optimize on our virtual communications.

For the NARFE Legislative priorities in the lame duck session, Headquarters is asking us to mostly focus on: a pay raise for federal employees (for which NARFE needs more of us to contact Congress); efforts to overturn the

Schedule F Executive Order; continue pressure to repeal or reform the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO); and push for the Fair COLA (cost-of-living-adjustments) for Seniors Act to calculate COLAs by using the Consumer Price Index for the Elderly (CPI-E). Our Federation will continue to vigorously build on the past collaboration with coalition partners for maximum impact to Congress and the General Assembly.

A considerable number of you volunteer for other organizations, many of whom are NARFE's coalition partners. Because I serve on the AARP Maryland Executive Council, the Calvert County Commission on Aging, and United Seniors of Maryland, I became aware of the incredible volunteer leadership of our member Chapter 1466 Newsletter Editor, **Max Munger**. He volunteers as the AARP Tax Aide District Coordinator, and is already planning for the upcoming tax season. I would like to highlight others of you, for the volunteer work you do for any of our coalition partners. Please send us input on your contributions.

We mourn the passing of our beloved friend and colleague **Saj Durrani** and memorialize his leadership in his Chapter and our Federation. I leave you with two thoughts to ponder. De Crescenzo said: "We are each of us angels with only one wing and we can only fly by embracing each other." And, closing with my Indian hero Mahatma Gandhi's words: "There are chords in every heart. If we only know how to strike the right chord, we would bring out the music."

### JOYOUS MEMORIES OF IN-PERSON CONFERENCES/MEETINGS



LEGcon



FEDcon



Outgoing **Region II Vice President Kathy Adams** (center) at NARFE/MD Board Meeting



*Paul Schwartz*  
*State Legislative Committee Chair*

## **STATE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE (SLC) REPORT**

The NARFE/MD State Legislation Program pamphlet, providing NARFE's State legislation goals for the upcoming 2021 legislature session, has been completed. Due to the current pandemic, the pamphlet is online only and can be accessed on the NARFE/MD website by going to the upper righthand corner and tapping on the State Legislation link.

The 2021 pamphlet provides the State Legislation Committee priorities and has added to overall tax relief and tax incentives for long-term care insurance and now also includes lowering prescription drug prices, expanding broadband capabilities for seniors, and support of infrastructure projects to make transportation more accessible for seniors.

Decoupling the state tax return from the federal tax return, however, still remains a top priority and for good reason. The basis for the failure of bills that would allow a Maryland taxpayer to decouple his or her state return from the federal return to make it out of committee was due to the fiscal note; a fiscal note, which did not reflect the true nature of the cost of the decoupling bill. This cannot be allowed to go unchecked and we won't.

We have contacted several relevant legislators to state our case and YOU must do the same. The issue is easy to understand. Simply put, we have been advocates of legislation to permit Maryland taxpayers to decouple their federal and state tax returns since currently that is not allowed under Maryland law. During last year's legislative session, Senator Anthony Serafini sponsored Senate Bill 486, "An Act concerning Income Tax – Itemized Deductions," which would allow an individual to itemize deductions to compute Maryland taxable income whether or not that individual itemizes deductions on that individual's federal income tax return.

The necessity for this legislation was caused by the federal tax changes in 2017, which made it advantageous for many tax payers to not itemize on their federal returns. However, if they chose to do this, it disqualified them from taking itemized deductions on their Maryland tax returns. NARFE/MD strongly supported the aforementioned bill as it represented a major step towards bringing tax fairness to Maryland taxpayers. Unfortunately, both Senate Bill 486, and its counterpart in the House, HB 788, sponsored by Delegate William Wivell, failed to move out of either the Senate Budget & Taxation Committee or the House Ways & Means Committee.

The primary reason for the failure was the fiscal note that incorrectly projected an average loss of some \$118 million in revenue to Maryland for each year from FY 2021 to FY 2024. The problem with the fiscal note is that it seems to be based entirely on the false assumption that all Maryland taxpayers who had previously taken the standard deduction on their state returns would all choose to go back to itemizing on their state returns, if allowed to decouple their return from their federal returns. This, of course, is a false assumption since the federal tax plan of 2017 eliminated many of the deductions that Maryland taxpayers had previously deducted on their previously filed state tax returns. Since neither bill supported re-instituting any of those previously eliminated deductions, many, if not most, Maryland taxpayers would not be in position to avail themselves of decoupling and would continue to take the standard deduction on their state returns along with their federal returns.



Think about the logic or, rather illogic, of the reasoning behind the fiscal note. If there are no longer the deductions, is it reasonable to assume that all of the taxpayers who jumped from itemizing on their state returns to taking the state standard because of the federal plan all of a sudden go back to itemizing on their state return to taking the state return if they no longer have the tax deductions to deduct? The answer is no. The assumption that some 690,000 Maryland taxpayers would jump back to itemizing on their state return after taking the state standard as a result of the federal tax plan is the entire basis of the fiscal note.

That \$118 million price tag of decoupling only makes a sliver of sense if the calculation includes adding back the eliminated deductions, which neither bill did. The only victims of not allowing decoupling are those Maryland taxpayers who itemized on their state returns and still have enough deductions to continue to itemize on their state returns even if they must forego the newly increased federal standard deduction. That only helps the federal government and has no impact on state revenue since itemizing before decoupling and itemizing with decoupling does not change state revenue.

That is the argument I provided to Robert Rehrmann of Legislative Services, as well as to Alexandra Hughes, Chief of Staff to Speaker Adrienne Jones. Ms. Hughes assured me that my arguments would be considered, if a new fiscal note was to be created. The problem is that without a bill for the upcoming session, there would be no opportunity to reconsider and, one hopes, revise the fiscal note.

That is where YOU come in. If you don't care about this issue, I can guarantee you neither will your legislators. Contact them any way you feel comfortable and tell them you care and want them to care as well.

Tell them that a properly done fiscal note should include cost data that is based on just those taxpayers who would benefit from the increased federal standard deduction, even if it means taking the lower state standard deduction in lieu of a more beneficial itemization on the state return. This certainly is a smaller segment of the population than all taxpayers who moved from itemizing to taking the state standard as indicated in the fiscal note. This calculation would provide an accurate cost analysis and would certainly be drastically lower than the estimate in the current fiscal note of some \$118 million.

Implore them to seek a review of the fiscal note based on these arguments. It is clear that a reworking of the fiscal note is justified and a revised fiscal note would provide for a successful re-introduction of last year's decoupling bill. If decoupling does not become a reality let it not be because of false information.

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### **MDNARFE-PAC We Need Your Help!**

MDNARFE-PAC (Political Action Committee), through the Federation's State Legislation Committee (SLC), works for legislation beneficial to seniors by raising and spending money to elect members of the Maryland General Assembly who support our legislative program.

Contributions to MDNARFE-PAC also help our SLC build strong relationships with Maryland lawmakers, a key component to winning legislative fights. Make an investment in advancing progressive senior legislation in Maryland by supporting MDNARFE-PAC today! (Note – MDNARFE-PAC contributions are not tax-deductible for Federal or state tax purposes.)

Please make your check payable to: **MDNARFE-PAC.**

Mail to: Robert Doyle, Treasurer, Maryland NARFE-PAC, 4226 Carvel Lane, Edgewater, MD 21037

Questions/Comments:

- Paul K. Schwartz, Coordinator, MDNARFE-PAC -- [pksyanks@aol.com](mailto:pksyanks@aol.com)
- Robert Doyle, Treasurer, MDNARFE-PAC -- [bdoyle47@verizon.net](mailto:bdoyle47@verizon.net)

# TREASURER'S REPORT



Stuart Sklamm, Treasurer [srsklamm@msn.com](mailto:srsklamm@msn.com)

## Treasurer's Report as of October 31, 2020

As indicated below on the financial statement, as of October 31, 2020, we are operating at a comfortable surplus. However, this is mainly due to the fact that the Federation May Board Meeting, NARFE FEDcon, the NARFE Region II Academy and the Federation Training Session were cancelled or rescheduled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, the Federation Fall Board Meeting was held virtually.

As indicated in the income portion, 85 percent of our revenues are derived by the NARFE headquarters 10 percent remittance. The balances in our checking and savings accounts as of October 31 are \$5,168.91 and \$91,732.60 respectfully. If you have any questions, please let me know. Thank you.

<b>NARFE Maryland Federation 2020 Budget</b>			
<b><u>DESCRIPTION</u></b>	<b><u>AMOUNT BUDGETED</u></b>	<b><u>ACTUAL AMOUNT</u></b> 1/01-10/31/2020	<b><u>DIFFERENCE (+OR-)</u></b> 1/01-10/31/2020
<b><u>INCOME</u></b>			
Interest	\$ 50.00	\$ 27.34	\$ 22.66
Chapter Per Capita Dues	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,600.00	\$ (100.00)
Federation February Board Meeting	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 2,635.00	\$ 2,365.00
Federation October Board Meeting	\$ 3,000.00		\$ 3,000.00
NARFE National Ten Percent Fund	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 36,224.59	\$ 3,775.41
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 51,550.00</b>	<b>\$ 42,486.93</b>	<b>\$ 9,063.07</b>
<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>			
Administration	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 3,733.51	\$ 3,266.49
Alzheimer's Fund			\$ 0.00
Chapter Assistance	\$ 500.00	\$ 62.64	\$ 437.36
February Board Meeting	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 5,843.14	\$ 156.86
Federation Bylaws Ballot Printing/Postage	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 1,790.89	\$ 2,209.11
Federation Training Conference	\$ 5,000.00		\$ 5,000.00
Federation EXCOM	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00
Federation FLC	\$ 2,500.00		\$ 2,500.00
Federation SLC	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 824.37	\$ 1,675.63
Laptop and Software	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,215.98	\$ 1,284.02
Membership Recruitment	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 391.93	\$ 608.07
Newsletter	\$ 3,120.00	\$ 1,605.33	\$ 1,514.67
Program Director	\$ 800.00	\$ 713.68	\$ 86.32
October Board Meeting	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 5,500.00
United Seniors of Maryland	\$ 500.00	\$ 226.04	\$ 273.96
Vendor Signs	\$ 900.00		\$ 900.00
Website	\$ 135.00	\$ 135.00	\$ 0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 43,455.00</b>	<b>\$ 17,042.51</b>	<b>\$ 26,412.49</b>
<b>Income Over (Under) Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 8,095.00</b>	<b>\$ 25,444.42</b>	<b>(\$17,349.43)</b>

# MEMBERSHIP



Edward Reed

2nd Vice President, Membership Director



Recruit Prospective Members!

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

This Membership Report centers on: "Our continued need to Recruit New NARFE Members." In this year's 2020 NARFE Virtual Annual Meeting, NARFE President Ken Thomas noted several new activities at NARFE HQS that will impact Recruitment and NARFE Membership overall. A new NARFE Website, coming in February 2021, will help to stress NARFE as "THE-GO-TO-AGENCY" for ALL federal employees and retirees to reach NARFE's Federal Benefits Experts. Also, coming in 2021 will be Chapter Toolkits to motivate ALL active federal employees. NARFE needs its Retiree Members to "Help Them Grow."

Our President also noted that 85 percent of new membership currently comes from Direct Marketing. We ALL need to help NARFE grow new leadership in our membership! He stressed: "If every current NARFE Member Recruited One New Member, NARFE would "Double Its Membership!"

Now, as active Maryland Federation NARFE members, let's ALL: "Discover [NARFE.org](http://www.NARFE.org); Let's ALL Learn to Utilize the NARFE Federal Benefits Institute and their NARFE Webinars" - to Give Expert Guidance on Federal Benefits Issues - Directly affecting these current federal employees we are trying to Recruit! These webinars are assisting Retired/Former feds with tips and tools to help ensure a safe and secure retirement for US ALL! When we speak with potential or prospective NARFE members (Such as U.S.P.S. members), we should: Identify NARFE, initially, as: "FEDERAL BENEFITS EXPERTS!" The numerous NARFE webinars cover topics of interest specifically for the federal community, AND, are "FREE" to NARFE members! Members have access to a wealth of knowledge and expertise to help them make the best decisions about their benefits, finances and careers - before, during and after retirement!

Our NARFE Executive Director, Barbara Sido, has noted - "Brand New Virtual Recruiting Tools - that ensure ALL NARFE Leaders can participate in Membership (Recruiting) wherever they are." Go to: [NARFE.org](http://www.NARFE.org); and "Log-On". Under: "NARFE FALL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE 2020" - you will find a: "Sample letter and Email to Prospect Template" that is an "Easy-To-Use-Email-Form" to recruit - Remotely; Use Email, tap into Facebook, Twitter and other Social Media tools to promote The Benefits of NARFE Membership and Drive Prospective Members to the "JOIN" Link on [http://www.NARFE.org!](http://www.NARFE.org)

In closing, remember when Recruiting, "NARFE Membership gives Active &-Retired Feds" access to a team of Federal Benefits Specialists for Personalized Answers to Complex Benefits Questions."

Have you given an F-135/Application to your U.S.P.S. Delivery Person yet? NARFE Application Sheets are in the rear of every NARFE Magazine. Also, F-135/NARFE Applications with our Maryland Unique Benefits Trifold inserts were mailed to all our Chapter Presidents earlier this year. Ask your President for a copy; they are "Great Recruiting Tools For ALL!"





*Patricia Farmer, Secretary*  
 301-776-4645 / [buttonspaf@aol.com](mailto:buttonspaf@aol.com)

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

I apologize for not getting an updated Directory out for October 2020 before the Oct. 5 Board Meeting. I was very busy with preparations for that meeting, including working closely ahead of time with Steve Gurney, our Zoom facilitator, to ensure that the meeting ran smoothly.

Since our NARFE/MD Board meeting on Feb. 1, 2021 will be a virtual session, I have been updating the Maryland Federation Directory for February 2021 and will email the file to the Executive Committee members, Region II VP, Committee Chairs and Chapter Presidents before the meeting. This will allow us to have the most up to date information to keep in touch with each other by e-mail and phone. Please make any changes in your Chapter F-7 as soon as possible.

My prayers continue for all of our members for safety and good health during this Covid-19 pandemic.

See Call for Nominations below. I will also send it out by email to the Executive Committee, Committee Chairs and Chapter Presidents.

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## **Call for Nominations for Maryland Federation Officers**

Election of new Maryland Federation officers to serve two-year terms will be part of the Maryland Federation's One Member – One Vote (OMOV) Voting Process in 2021. The Nominating Committee needs the help of all chapters and members in fielding candidates for the offices of Federation President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

If you have any nominations for officers of the Maryland Federation, send them to Nominating Committee Chair P. A. Jeffries at [pjeffries2010@comcast.net](mailto:pjeffries2010@comcast.net), or 14701 Van Wagner Road, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-9715 by the deadline of Feb. 15, 2021. Contact Nominating Chair P. A. Jeffries for a Nomination Form.

All Candidates running for office will be listed on the 2021 voting ballot. Voters may write in a candidate on the ballot.

Members of the Nominating Committee are: Chair Antoinette Jeffries, Chapter 2262 Upper Marlboro; Virginia Bender, Chapter 2274 Ocean Area; Dr. Bruce Fowler, Chapter 1127, Rockville; Melinda Scott, Chapter 1747 Greater Bowie Crofton; and Charles Garfinkel, Chapter 258 Western Montgomery County.

## REGION II VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

**KATHY ADAMS**

**REGION II  
VICE PRESIDENT**



Region II distributed 29,500 ballots, of which 1,978 or 6.71% were returned. Candidates for National Office for Secretary\Treasurer: Cindy Renee Blythe - 5,038 votes / Kathryn Hensley - 7,661 votes.

Increase in National Dues: Dues will increase from \$40.00 to \$48.00. The last dues increase resulted in a membership loss of 5 percent over the ensuing year. It is crucial because of the continued 10 percent funding to federations. All members must think of new, real retention strategies in combination with any new recruitment plans. This all takes effect in 2021.

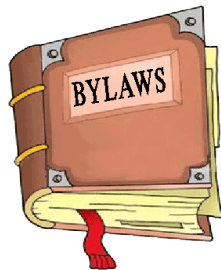
Alzheimer's Goal for Region II has not been met, due to the fact that Chapters have not been meeting. Therefore, the deadline has been extended for six months.

As I leave my position as Region II Vice President, it has been a real pleasure working and meeting so many wonderful members. I hope our paths will continue to cross frequently.

Stay healthy and safe!

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## BYLAWS AND RESOLUTIONS REPORT



*Larry Lange*  
**Resolutions Committee Chair**  
**llange3751@aol.com**

Sarah Richards resigned as Co-Chair of the Federation Resolutions Committee as of October 30, 2020, citing her appreciation for the opportunity to serve in this capacity and her need to focus more on Aspen Hill Chapter 1892 as its Chapter President. Sarah stated that all work is currently up to date and there is no work planned for the committee until March 2021. Federation President Dr. Gary Roundtree accepted Sarah's resignation as Resolutions Co-Chair on October 31, and thanked her for all the hard work, dedication and leadership she provided as Co-Chair of the Resolutions Committee. He expressed his appreciation for her professionalism and valued service to the Maryland Federation.



Eleanor Kaul

*Coordinator, Federal Employee and Education  
Assistance – Scholarships and Disaster Fund  
Coordinator, Alzheimer's Research Fund*  
[eekaul@comcast.net](mailto: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

Leah Stein, daughter of Michael Stein, won the 2020 Region II Scholarship. Mr. Stein is a National member from Maryland. Leah will be attending Hertford College, Oxford, England.

Since 2013, the Maryland Federation has had 12 winners and starting with 2015 our yearly raffles have raised \$1,997 for the Scholarship Fund.

Checks payable to FEEA Scholarship should be send to FEEA, 3333 S. Wadsworth Blvd, Suite 300, Lakewood, CO 80227-5122. FEEA is a 501(c)3 tax-deductible organization.

Scholarship information is available at [scholarship@narfe.org](mailto:scholarship@narfe.org).

## ALZHEIMER'S REPORT

The Alzheimer's stamp went on sale October 5, 2020. These stamps make a good gift for birthday, Christmas or any occasion.

The Maryland Federation is number one in Region II contributions with \$1,901; the next highest is Pennsylvania with \$470.

Make chapter checks payable to NARFE - Alzheimer's Research and mail them to me – Eleanor Kaul, 8934 Executive Club Drive, Delmar, MD 21875.

Checks for the Walk to End Alzheimer's should be made payable to Alzheimer's Association and sent to Alzheimer's Association, 225 North Michigan Avenue, 17<sup>th</sup> Floor, Chicago, IL 60601-7633. This is separate fund.

The updated Alzheimer's Coordinator Chapter Manual and the Federation manual are available on the NARFE Headquarters Website.

Keep up the good work Maryland.



**Edward Holland**

Program Director / Public Relations Director / Chair Equity Committee /  
Liaison to MD/DC Alliance for Retired Americans / Liaison to Fraternal Order of Police  
301-848-3476 (cell) / 301-632-2826 (home) / [hollandnmd@aol.com](mailto:hollandnmd@aol.com)

### ***Program Director:***

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 to an engaging speaker. The speaker should be someone that you would want to hear from.

For the February 1, 2021 Board Meeting, in honor of Black History Month, Dr. Gary asked us to secure a prominent speaker. We are pleased to announce the speaker will be Sabrina Tapp-Harper, President, Region 3, National Black Police Association. Tapp-Harper retired from the Baltimore Police Department, at the rank of Major with the Baltimore City Sheriff's Office. Major Tapp-Harper holds a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and a Masters in Applied Behavioral Science. Without a doubt, Major Tapp-Harper is a cop's cop.

### ***Equity Committee Chair:***

At the October 5, 2020 Board Meeting, NARFE MD Federation leaders voted to make this a permanent Standing Committee. The members are: Edward Holland, Chair; Lawrence Walton, Vice Chair; Barbara Cuffie; Lawrence Lange; Franklin Lee; Boyd Loflin; and Samuel Raines. Its goals and objectives are: "To celebrate and promote diversity, inclusion, and multiculturalism through a variety of mechanisms, including conferences, board meetings, and training sessions." More importantly, the committee is not seeking a mission. The mission should come to us.

### ***Public Relations Director:***

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](mailto:hollandnmd@aol.com).

At the October 5, 2020 Board Meeting, NARFE MD Federation leaders voted to allow this directorate to submit an application to become an affiliate member of the MDDC Press Association.

Stay safe.

# AROUND THE FEDERATION

## CENSUS CHAMPION

DR. SUDHA HALEY



Dr. Sudha Haley exhibits all of the characteristics of a true leader —organization, encouragement, optimism, integrity, confidence, and honesty. Dr. Haley showed all of these when the Calvert County Complete Count Committee faced the challenges that COVID-19 posed in attaining its goal of 90% participation in the 2020 Census. She attended numerous meetings outside of the actual committee setting and assisted in organizing the hugely successful AARP Maryland Statewide 2020 Census Forum. Her commitment to empowering a diverse community and to achieving social justice is unparalleled. Dr. Haley's experience in numerous employment roles and personal situations was a blessing to the members of the committee.

**CONGRATULATIONS DR. SUDHA HALEY!**

### SCREENSHOTS FROM NARFE/MD OCTOBER 5, 2020 VIRTUAL BOARD MEETING



Secretary Pat Farmer doing roll call.



Dr. Gary (top left) introduced Program Director Edward Holland (top right) who introduced Guest Speaker Eric Hirschhorn (center).



Treasurer Stu Sklamm gives Treasurer's Report.



Dr. Sudha Haley presents Legislative Report. Dr. Bruce Fowler give FLC Report.



Paul Schwartz gives SLC Report.



Bob Doyle give update on MD-PAC.





2<sup>nd</sup> VP Ed Reed presents Membership Report.



Charlie Garfinkel gives the Audit Report.



Chaplain Larry Lange gave the Invocation, a tribute to Dick Strombotne and the Benediction. As Resolutions Co-Chair, he gave the Resolutions Report.

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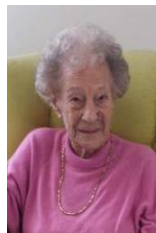
## IN MEMORIAM



**Sajjid (Saj) Durrani**, age 92, past president of Aspen Hill Chapter 1892 and longtime Maryland Federation Chair of the Resolutions Committee, passed away in November. As Chapter 1892 President Sarah Richards said, “We will all miss his smiling face, his guidance and his thoughtful peacemaking.” Many of you may remember an article Paul Schwartz wrote in November 2016 about Saj, entitled “Meet my friend – Saj – a True American.” Paul’s column was reprinted in the *Montgomery County Sentinel* on November 17, 2020 as an obituary tribute to Saj. To find out everything you need to know about Saj, go to:

[www.thesentinel.com/communities/montgomery/obituaries/meet-my-friend-saj---a-true-american](http://www.thesentinel.com/communities/montgomery/obituaries/meet-my-friend-saj---a-true-american)

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**Margaret Evans**, age 100, passed away on Nov. 17, 2020. Margaret spent many years as an active Chapter 1887, Wheaton-Glenmont member, as well as greeting and providing snacks to those coming to chapter meetings. She had been a NARFE member for 38 years, ever since April 1982, and was ever-present at Chapter 1887 meetings until the pandemic foreclosed further get-togethers. See Margaret Evans obituary at:

<https://www.tributearchive.com/obituaries/19005446/Margaret-Evans/Silver-Spring/Maryland/Francis-J-Collins-Funeral-Home>

## FEDERATION DIRECTORY (abbreviated)

### Executive Committee

President	Dr. Gary Roundtree Sr.	443-929-7045	groundtreesr@yahoo.com
1 <sup>st</sup> VP, Legislative Director	Dr. Sudha Haley	410-535-4998	sudhabhagwat2002@yahoo.com
2 <sup>nd</sup> VP, Membership Director	Edward Reed	301-739-1641	edr3vigil@yahoo.com
Secretary	Patricia Farmer	301-776-4645	buttonspaf@aol.com
Assistant Secretary	Virginia Bender	443-210-2920	vbender21804@gmail.com
Treasurer	Stuart Sklamm	301-384-0784	srsklamm@msn.com
Assistant Treasurer	Dave Roseman	240-401-6628	dave.roseman@comcast.net
Immediate Past President	Dan McGrath	757-436-1095	mcgrathsop@aol.com
Past President	Ted Jensen	301-845-2088	grandpated1@gmail.com
Past President	Ron Bowers	410-308-0420	narfebowers@msn.com

### Contacts

(See Additional Contacts/Committees on Federation Website)

Alzheimer's Coordinator	Eleanor Kaul	410-896-4354	eekaul@comcast.net
Chapter Development	Bernie Goldsborough	301-737-1315	
FEEA Coordinator	Eleanor Kaul	410-896-4354	eekaul@comcast.net
Federal Legislative Committee Chair	Dr. Bruce Fowler	240-479-0886	bafowler777@gmail.com
NARFE-PAC Coordinator	Dr. Sudha Haley	410-535-4998	sudhabhagwat2002@yahoo.com
Budget Officer	Dave Roseman	240-401-6628	dave.roseman@comcast.net
MD-PAC Treasurer	Bob Doyle	410-798-0079	bdoyle47@verizon.net
Program Director / PR Director	Edward Holland	301-848-3476	hollandnmd@aol.com
Equity Committee Chair	Edward Holland	301-848-3476	hollandnmd@aol.com
Resolutions Committee Chair	Larry Lange	301-972-6775	llange3751@aol.com

Service Officer	Vacant		
State Legislation Committee Chair	Paul Schwartz	240-838-2200	pksyanks@aol.com
Webmaster	Morse Solomon		narfemdfed@gmail.com
Social Media Coordinator (Facebook)	Howard Gordon		flash@acm.org
Region II Vice President (DE/DC/MD/NJ/PA)	Kathy Adams	302-697-6650	adamskhawaii@aol.com
NARFE National Headquarters		703-838-7760	

### Chapters and Presidents

126 Western Charles/Indian Head	Ed Rice	1522 Susquehanna (Acting)	Barry Decker
126 Co-Presidents	Ron Bush	1734 Howard County	Dr. Sam Stern (Acting)
251 Annapolis	Carla Duls	1747 Greater Bowie/Crofton	Frank Lee
258 Western Montgomery County	Lois Ann Beaver	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	Daniel Moore	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	Co-Presidents Nan Donnell & Allen Ford	1972 Waldorf/La Plata	Edward Holland
1143 Leisure World	John Moens	2262 Upper Marlboro	P.A. Jeffries
1260 Southern Prince George's County	William Guthrie	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.		

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

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**Distribution:** Pat Farmer

\*\*\*\*\*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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### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

#### **2021**

Jan. 25, 2021	Registration Deadline for Feb. 1 Board Meeting
Jan. 31, 2021	Executive Committee Meeting – Virtual – 3-6 p.m.
Feb. 1, 2021	NARFE/MD Virtual Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
March 1, 2021	Spring Newsletter Articles due to Editor Pat Farmer
March 15/16	Region II Training Academy, York, Pa.