

## Membership Meeting

Feb 18<sup>th</sup> 1:00pm

ZOOM  
"Getting Started  
Genealogy"

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## Executive Board Meeting

Feb 22<sup>th</sup> 10:30am

ZOOM

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## Future Member Meeting

Mar 18<sup>th</sup>

TBA

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**Active and Retired  
Federal Employees are  
invited!**

[Change of Address?](#)  
[Winter Address?](#)  
[Email Newsletter?](#)  
[Membership?](#)

(410) 353-1150  
[MAXMUNGER@  
VERIZON.NET](mailto:MAXMUNGER@VERIZON.NET)

### NOTE:

Double click on any underlined internet address (URL) in the electronic version of the newsletter to connect directly to the subject

**New Chapter mailing  
address:**

NARFE 1466  
13033 Mills Creek Dr  
Lusby, MD 20657

## ZOOM Chapter Meetings

**COVID-19 forces us to forego our chapter in-person meetings, so, On February 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm, you are invited to a Zoom meeting on your computer. Join this meeting by just clicking below:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82102425610?pwd=Y29tRTRsWGRvOVY4V2NNSkJCM0hadz09>

The ZOOM software will be loaded for you. You should turn on the computer camera and the sound to see/hear/speak.

## Legislative

*Shelly Ziman  
Greg Stottlemeyer*

Maryland Senator Mike Miller died on Jan 14. Delegate Michael Jackson, District 27B, was appointed by Governor Hogan to fill Mike Miller's District 27 Senate seat. House District 27B as well as Senate District 27 cover the northern portion of Calvert County. With Mr. Jackson moving to the Senate, House District 27B is open and is subject to a solicitation by the Calvert County Central Committee. A special hearing, date and time TBD, will be livestreamed on Facebook.

## FEDERAL NEWS (from NARFE HQ)

### Form 1099-R from OPM

According to OPM, all 2020 1099-R forms are mailed to annuitants by January 31. Mailed 1099-R tax forms may not be received until mid-February, depending on where the annuitant lives. Please keep a close eye on your mail. You may also go to OPM.GOV and download your 1099-R.

### [FAIR Act Proposes 3.2 Percent Average Federal Pay Raise for 2022](#)

On January 21, Rep. Gerry Connolly, D-VA, reintroduced legislation to increase federal pay and make progress toward closing the gap between public- and private-sector wages.

## NARFE Supports Rescind of Schedule F

NARFE National President Ken Thomas issued a statement in support of President Biden's action rescinding the executive order that created a Schedule F federal employment category.

On October 21, an Executive Order directed agency heads to identify current federal employees involved in "positions of a confidential, policy-determining, policy-making, or policy-advocating character". All such positions would be moved to a new "Schedule F" position and become essentially "at will" employees who may be fired at any time.

## United Seniors of Maryland

In past years the United Seniors of Maryland, MD NARFE, and AARP MD held an annual rally at the beginning of the legislative session in the Senate Office building in Annapolis. They were able to have MD Legislative Leadership and MD Senators and Delegates participate. COVID-19 has caused that rally to be postponed until the 2022 Session.

The impact of the pandemic overshadows all proposed legislation. This year, the USM Group is tracking and supporting legislation impacting seniors. The bills are for Covid-19 protection, testing, vaccines for all seniors; senior estate and tax breaks, budgets for MD Department of Aging and Health and the services they provide, Broad Band access for seniors and Tele-health, Financial Health of Hospitals and Health Services, Housing and Evictions.

They are also tracking things such as Driver Licenses for those over 85, absentee ballots for seniors and the disabled, etc. They are holding weekly action and status meetings via Zoom. NARFE MD Leadership usually participates in those weekly meetings. Greg Stottlemeyer will participate in as many as he can.

You can get involved by e-mailing the USM President, Elizabeth Cooney, [ew@elizabethcooneyagency.com](mailto:ew@elizabethcooneyagency.com)

**President**

GREG STOTTLEMEYER  
(410) 610-8069  
[GREGSTOTTLEMEYER@COMCAST.NET](mailto:GREGSTOTTLEMEYER@COMCAST.NET)

**1st Vice President**

SHELLY ZIMAN  
(no phone)  
[SGZIMAN@COMCAST.NET](mailto:SGZIMAN@COMCAST.NET)

**Secretary - Treasurer**

BOB OSZAJCA  
(410) 586-1105  
[ROSZAJCA@AOL.COM](mailto:ROSZAJCA@AOL.COM)

**Membership Newsletter / Publicity**

MAX MUNGER  
(410) 326-9024  
[MAXMUNGER@VERIZON.NET](mailto:MAXMUNGER@VERIZON.NET)

**Service Officer**

DON KILPATRICK  
(410) 610-7192  
[DWK.EHK@VERIZON.NET](mailto:DWK.EHK@VERIZON.NET)

**Greeter**

BOB PRIDDY  
(410) 326-2228  
[PRIDDY425@COMCAST.NET](mailto:PRIDDY425@COMCAST.NET)

**Sergeant @ Arms****VACANT****Sunshine**

MARY ANN MUNN  
(410) 286-7586  
[NJOYDANCIN@AOL.COM](mailto:NJOYDANCIN@AOL.COM)

**Way & Means**

VACANT

**Computer Fraud**

(from the AARP Fraud Watch Newsletter)

***“Your computer is infected with a virus”.***  
*That’s a scary statement to suddenly receive, but the scam is not to just sell you unnecessary technical support:*

- You get an unsolicited phone call or email from a big tech company like Microsoft or Apple, Big tech companies like Microsoft and Apple don’t call customers out of the blue to warn them of problems on their devices.
- or you see a pop-up message on your screen warning that a virus or other malicious program has infected your device, and you need to call the number on the screen right away.
- A “technician” asks for remote access to your device, and once in, shows you some files that “prove” you have a major problem. Be aware: The concerning files the “technician” may show you on your device are completely benign.
- The “technician” says they can fix your problem for a fee, and then may offer you a monthly subscription to keep your device safe.
- The scammer may ask you to pay by purchasing a gift card and providing the account number and PIN — a sure sign that it’s a scam, as is a request for payment by wire transfer.
- The scammer may call back months later and offer you a refund for some phony reason, asking for your bank account information to deposit the money.

These are all a ruse to gain access to your devices, cheat you out of money or worse, get access to your financial accounts. Be careful of your online activities!

**Medicare Solicitation Fraud**

*With all the solicitations and TV ads for Medicare Advantage (Medicare Part C) AARP’s Fraud Watch is warning people who are contacted by phone about “new and improved benefits from Medicare”. The Fraud tipoff is that you didn’t initiate the contact:*

- You receive a call or home visit from a home health care agency offering to sign you up for services that Medicare will pay for. Anytime you see an ad or get a call

offering you something for “free” from Medicare, it is a scam.

- You get a call claiming that Medicare is sending out new “chip-enabled” Medicare cards. Medicare is sticking with the current paper card and is not sending out chip-enabled cards.
- You get a call about a special “deal” on a new Medicare plan during open enrollment. It may come with a free gift or limited-time offer. By law, legitimate Medicare insurance providers will contact you only if you have previously requested information.

**File your 2020 Income Tax Returns**

Its ‘tax time’ again! The IRS will not be accepting ANY tax returns until after FEB 12th this year. Due date is April 15<sup>th</sup> for most filers. Direct Deposit Refunds will be delayed up to two weeks after filing. Paper checks may take a month or more!

The New CARES act applies to businesses and the self employed who were out of work due to COVID issues. Stimulus payments for sick leave while caring for self or other individuals or for day care can be claimed on the 2020 tax return.

The rebate Recovery Act applies to everyone. In 2020 you should have received payments for self, spouse and any children. Since January 2021, additional checks were sent out and Congress is considering an increased amount, yet to be determined. They were based on social security entitlements and filing of 2019 tax returns.

Don’t worry if you have not seen these EIP payments. You will be able to claim ALL unreceived payments on your 2020 tax return. They will be added into your refund amount and be paid regardless of any other government indebtedness.

Actual tax filing suffered last year due to closures and illness due to COVID, Expect the same problems in 2020. There are several online free filing venues if you can do it yourself. The **IRS FREE-FILE** has limits on income and deductions above \$72,000 AGI and has fillable forms for download. See IRS.GOV. Maryland also has online free file. AARP will again offer its **TAXAIDE** program in local areas and an **ATP**, Alternative Tax Prep service using (limited) commercial software (Turbo-Tax, TaxSlayer) for self-filing with telephone assistance.

## Alzheimer's 50/50

Make check payable to **NARFE-Alzheimer's Research**, note "from NARFE Chapter 1466" on the check, and mail to:

Alzheimer's Association  
225 N. Michigan Ave., 17<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Chicago, IL 60601-7633

## PRINCE FREDERICK COALITION

Calvert County plans to begin construction of the new community center in Prince Frederick in 2023, as well as a new office building in Executive Plaza on Main Street. To be added to the mailing list for updates, contact Shelly at [sgziman@comcast.net](mailto:sgziman@comcast.net).

## Maryland State Taxes –

**Are you angry yet?** Well if you are a Maryland taxpayer who ordinarily had **itemized deductions** on your Maryland state tax returns, then you should be! Your elected officials in Annapolis failed to protect you from the tax hike imposed on your 2018 and 2019 and 2020 state income taxes resulting from the federal tax plan. This un-legislated, unapproved tax hike cost Maryland taxpayers an estimated \$500,000,000 each year.

Last year, there were bills that called for decoupling state deductions from federal deductions that never made it out of committee.

**HB 327 is a critical bill** that must be supported in that it takes the major step of decoupling the state return from the federal return thereby allowing itemization at the state level even if the standard deduction is taken at the federal level. This is a critical step in the ongoing effort to, as Governor Hogan described it, "make us whole."

**How do you make your concerns raised to your legislators?** Google "MD NARFE", click on the "Maryland Federation of NARFE" and then click on "Legislative - State Page" in the upper right-hand corner. You will then have access to "What you can do about it." [Click here](#) This link will enable you to directly contact your elected officials in Annapolis, as well as provide you with a sample letter that can be used in the process. Go for it! The money you save will be your own.

## **Calvert County Food Pantries – Southern Maryland Food Bank & Outreach Services** (Click to contribute)

Calvert County Delegates are: 1-800-492-7122

Michael Jackson (27B) ext 3103

Mark Fisher (27C) ext 3231

Jerry Clark (29C) ext 3314

Calvert County Senators:

Michael Jackson (27-northern Calvert) ext 3700

Jack Bailey (29-southern Calvert) ext 3673

## ACCESSING THE FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER

NARFE members are urged to use the Legislative Action Center (LAC) as the hub to send letters to members of Congress and track Federal NARFE-related bills and votes. NARFE frequently updates the LAC, so check back often.

## Treasurers Report

Bob Oszajca

	Treasury	(Alzheimers)
<b>Bal Dec 26</b>	\$2311.12	125.00
Narfe Dues	59.84	
Newsletter	(46.98)	
50/50	20.00	20.00
Alzheimer's	(125.00)	(125.00)
<b>Bal Jan 30</b>	\$2265.96	20.00

## Membership

Prospects	
New	2
Dropped	
Transferred	
Deceased	
<b>Total Voting</b>	<b>105</b>

## OPM Retirement Services

[www.opm.gov](http://www.opm.gov) Email [retire@opm.gov](mailto:retire@opm.gov)  
Phone: 1-888-767-6738 or (hearing impaired) TTY 1-885-887-4957 or TTD 1-800-878-5707

## NARFE Federal Benefits Institute

Useful Webinars on timely subjects  
[www.narfe.org/member/FederalBenefitsInstitute](http://www.narfe.org/member/FederalBenefitsInstitute)

## Federal Services and Benefits

800-FED-INFO (1-800-333-4636)

## NARFE Store - Apparel, Badges

[www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org)

## NARFE's 24 x 7 Hotline 1-877-217-8234

You can call this number anytime to find out the latest news about what is happening.

**NARFE Legislative Action Center** review Congressional legislative details, quickly and easily send letters to members of Congress on a variety of NARFE issues, sign up for action alerts, and track NARFE-related bills and votes.

## Consumer Guide for Marylanders

a 36-page booklet on avoiding scams and fraud. [Read it online \(PDF\)](#). It covers Financial Exploitation, Telemarketing Fraud, Sweepstakes scams, Medicaid Fraud/Physical Abuse, End-of-Life Care, and Nursing Homes.

## UPCOMING CALENDAR EVENTS

- Mar - TBD
- Apr– TBD
- **May 2019** MD Federation Convention, Dunes Hotel, Ocean City MD
- Jun

### Chapter 1466 Meetings

Chapter meetings are on the third Thursday of each month (except July and August). A short business meeting follows our special program or guest speaker.

Executive Board meetings are the fourth Monday. Active and retired federal employees, non-members, spouses and guests are always invited.

**(See page 1 for actual meeting dates and locations)**

**Chapter in person Meetings are suspended due to COVID 19 restrictions – join us on ZOOM!**

See us on Face Book at  
[NARFE Chapter 1466](#) OR [NARFE1466@gmail.com](mailto:NARFE1466@gmail.com)

### About NARFE

Since 1921, the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association is the only organization exclusively devoted to protecting the earned benefits of active and retired Civil Service employees and their annuitants and survivors.

Membership is open to civilians in any agency of the Federal government, including retirees, current employees, spouses of current employees or retirees, and survivors of those eligible to join NARFE.

[www.NARFE.org](http://www.NARFE.org) and [www.mdnarfe.org](http://www.mdnarfe.org)