



## NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES



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Hagerstown MD

April 2021

### From the Desk of the President

**Happy Easter.** May you enjoy your day surrounded by friends, family, and plenty of chocolate!

NARFE/MD ONE MEMBER ONE VOTE (OMOV) VOTING PROCESS 2021 One Member - One Vote provides each member of the MD Federation (Chapter members and National members in the Federation) the opportunity to cast a ballot for election of officers, bylaws changes and resolutions. Voting in 2021 will be done by paper ballot. For all MD Federation members and National members in Maryland who have email, the ballot will be sent to you by email for you to print, fill out and return by postal mail based on instructions with the ballot. MD Federation and National members in Maryland who do not have an email address will be sent a paper ballot for voting for you to fill out and return by postal mail based on instructions with the ballot. In order for your vote to count, you must sign the ballot and provide your NARFE member ID number. These ballots must be returned in a timely manner and postmarked no later than April 15, 2021 for your vote to count. Nominations for officers of the Maryland Federation were due to Nominating Committee Chair Antoinette Jeffries, [pjeffries2010@comcast.net](mailto:pjeffries2010@comcast.net) by the deadline, February 15, 2021. More information is available at the MD Federation website.

Our Chapter Vice President Ed Reed is running again for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the MD Federation. Ed has done a great job as Vice President at both the Chapter and Federation Level. Ed promises "to work well with the Federation Officers to achieve all the NARFE MD goals and missions, together with Chapter Leaders".

Would any of our members with computers be interested in attending a Zoom membership meeting? We cannot hold in person meetings and the leadership team wants to know if you would be interested. We have a few guest speakers we can invite to the meeting. Please let me know. Hopefully we can all meet together soon.

The 45th Biennial Conference of the Maryland Federation of NARFE will take place at the Dunes Manor Hotel in Ocean City, Maryland ..... May 2-4, 2021. If you are interested in attending, please let me know by March 31, 2021.

**Patricia Nix, President, NARFE Hagerstown Chapter 306**

### Treasurer's Report

<b>Feb.14, 2021</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$1,964.51</b>
	Credit	\$ 81.00
	Expenses	<u>\$320.62</u>
<b>March 18, 2021</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$1,724.89</b>

**P. Reed, Treasurer**

## Secretary's Report for April 2021 Newsletter

The Leadership Team of NARFE Hagerstown Chapter 306 met via ZOOM with the following in attendance: Pat Nix, Ed Reed, Pandi Reed, Dorothy Smith (via telephone), Charley Ware, Dot Buhrman, and Barb Ware. Tom Brudenell was unable to be with us. OLD BUSINESS: ##Dr. Sudha Haley, NARFE Maryland Federation President, presented "Maryland Federation's 2021 spotlight on Chapters" at our February 5, 2021, meeting. She concluded her presentation with an OPEN DISCUSSION: To Gain and Capture Your Insights. She reminded us of the upcoming Maryland Federation officers' elections. ##Your Leadership Team voted to donate \$50.00 in support of Maryland Federation legislative activity in Annapolis to support our Maryland seniors. REPORTS: ##Vice President/Legislation – Ed Reed's report included: (a) MARYLAND NARFE-PAC Group has supported, in Annapolis, HB-733, The Retirement Tax Reduction Act (RTRA); (b) FOR ALL SENIORS - in Washington County: Meritus-Medical is now taking all names and granting appointments for the COVID-19 vaccinations via their website. (c) JUST A POLITE REMINDER: Please Vote for Edward Reed/2ND Vice President) in this year's Maryland Federation's Elections. See Ed's full report in the April 2021 newsletter. ##Secretary Barb Ware asked for and received a consensus vote on the minutes of our February 5, 2021, Leadership Team Meeting. She also mentioned her Secretary's Report of this same meeting appeared in the March newsletter. ##Treasurer Pandi Reed (a) announced a balance of \$1,869.89 in our checking account; (b) has completed our tax forms. We're good for another year! ##Membership Chairperson Dorothy Smith's report will appear in the April newsletter. ##Special Raffle Chairperson Dorothy Smith's report will appear in the April newsletter. ##Alzheimer's Co-Coordinator Charley Ware shared an article titled Approaching Memory Loss Concerns taken from the NARFE February 2021 Newsletter from the Alzheimer's Association. ##Service Officer Tom Brudenell was not with us today. His report will appear in the April newsletter. ##Newsletter Editor Dot Buhrman (a) announced her deadline is 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 24, 2021, for the April 2021 newsletter; (b) shared she will include an Alzheimer's Longest Day reminder notice; (c) mentioned both the postage to mail and printing cost have increased slightly; (d) told us her new printing company is located in Waynesboro. NEW BUSINESS: ##Region II Training Academy in York, PA, March 15-16, 2021, has been rescheduled for March 14-15, 2022. ##The One Member One Vote (OMOV) ballot is being prepared by the Maryland Federation Secretary Farmer and will be completed by March 5, with a copy provided to the Ballot and Teller Committee. Candidates' statements will be sent on March 22 and Ballots will be sent by March 25 to Maryland Federation of NARFE members by the NARFE Email System (NES) and paper ballots by postal mail to those members who do not have email addresses. Voting begins March 26. Voting ends/ballots must be postmarked by April 15. Ballot and Teller Committee's count of votes is due on April 29. President Dr. Sudha Haley will announce the results of the voting on April 30. The new Maryland Federation Officers will be installed at the Biennial Conference on May 4 in Ocean City, if the conference is held there. If the conference isn't held in person, it will be held virtually on May 4. UPCOMING CHAPTER 306, MARYLAND FEDERATION, and NATIONAL NARFE MEETINGS: ##Hagerstown Chapter 306 Leadership Team Meeting, April 9, 2021; ##Maryland Federation Elections – see New Business; ##Maryland Federation Biennial Conference – May 4, 2021; ##Hagerstown Chapter 306 Leadership Team Meeting, May 7, 2021 OTHER: ##We were reminded that March is NARFE-PAC month. NARFE-PAC provides more opportunities to take the NARFE message directly to Congress. It helps NARFE build relationships with new lawmakers and strengthens relationships with returning ones. You can continue to show your support of NARFE-PAC in April by making a contribution through our Chapter 306. Please make your check payable to NARFE-PAC and send it to our Treasurer, Pandi Reed, 1204 Virginia Avenue, Hagerstown, MD 21740-7232. THANK YOU! ##NARFE Centennial – One hundred years ago, in 1921, Warren G. Harding replaced Woodrow Wilson as president of the United States. An unidentified soldier from World War I was buried in the plaza of the Memorial Amphitheater at Arlington National Cemetery. The first baseball game was broadcast on the radio. And in Washington, DC, 14 retired federal government workers met to form an association to protect the hard earned retirement benefits of federal civilian employees, retirees and their survivors—the organization that would become NARFE (from the January/February 2021 NARFE Magazine, pages 20-26). The NARFE Centennial Gala is scheduled for June 21, 2021, in Washington, DC (see page 11 in the March 2021 NARFE Magazine). With no further business, this meeting was adjourned. NEXT LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 2021

**Respectfully submitted, Barbara Ware, Secretary**

## **Legislation Report**

**LEGISLATION-Federal:** As your Chapter-Vice-President, I encourage ALL our Chapter-0306 Members to contact their Congressional Legislators, through The NARFE Legislative Action Center (On: <http://www.narfe.org>) and support the repeal of WEP and GPO. Rep. Rodney Davis, R-IL, re-introduced legislation to repeal The Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO). These provisions cut the Social Security Benefits of federal employees and their surviving spouses. The Social Security Fairness Act, H.R. 82, would fully repeal both provisions.

**Legislation-State:** (Words from NARFE Chapter-1747's Newsletter) - Our Federation's MDNARFE-PAC Committee supports The Maryland H.B.733, The Retirement Tax Reduction Act (RTRA) of 2021, with companion cross-filed bill, SB 572. The RTRA would be a phased-in reduction in state tax on retirement income beginning in 2022 with full implementation in 2026. At that time, the bill will eliminate all state tax on the first \$50,000 of income for individual retirees with a Federal Adjusted Gross Income (FAGI) of up to \$100,000 so retirees with a FAGI of \$50,000 or less will pay no Maryland state tax whatsoever. In the intervening years, there will be phased-in tax reductions each year starting at \$10,000 and going up in \$10,000 increments each year to the full \$50,000 in 2026. As our Governor Hogan has said "...Now, more than ever, Marylanders need to be able to keep more of their hard-earned money in their own pockets". Since our Chapter-0306 has given \$50.00 to support our MDNARFE-PAC volunteer-support-group, we believe they wholeheartedly support the Governor's bill. You may see their 2021 Legislative Program pamphlet at their website-address, now, at: ([www.https://mdnarfe.org/the-maryland-federation/committees/legislative-state/](https://mdnarfe.org/the-maryland-federation/committees/legislative-state/)). I encourage all our chapter members to frequently visit this website to "Keep-Abreast of All Maryland Congressional activity in support of ALL seniors!

Concluding: Please remember your Maryland Federation's 2021 One Member, One Vote (OMOV) Election Ballot (Whether you received it by email or via USPS-mail) - "Must be - Signed, Annotated W/Your NARFE I.D. Number -&- Postmarked by 15 April, 2021!

I Thank You, ALL, for your Vote-For-Me - for MD Federation's 2ND Vice-President//Membership; I will represent you ALL at our Federation's Biennial Conference, in Ocean City, MD. on May 2,3 & 4, 2021.

STAY-SAFE AND PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING; REGISTER FOR THE VACCINE! ((If you are a senior and don't have a computer, Call 3-1-1.If you have a computer: [Covidvax.maryland.gov](https://covidvax.maryland.gov)))

**Ed Reed, V.P./Legislation**

## **Membership Report**

For help with membership problems you can call me and leave a message on my answering machine with your name, address, and phone #. I do not answer calls from unfamiliar phone numbers. I will return your call as soon as I can. Please let me know on my answering machine that your call is about NARFE. My phone # is 301-745-6355.

Hopefully Chapter 306 can meet again soon in person.

**Dorothy C. Smith, Membership Chair**

## SPECIAL ALZHEIMER'S REPORT

### APPROACHING MEMORY LOSS CONCERNS

It can be difficult to know what to do if you've noticed changes in yourself or a family member or friend – particularly when they're related to memory loss, thinking or behavior. It's natural to feel uncertain about voicing your worries because that can make them seem more "real." However, these are significant health concerns, and it's important to take action to figure out what's going on.

- **Assess the situation:** What changes in memory, thinking or behavior do you notice?
- **Start a conversation:** Who should participate in the conversation to discuss concerns?
- **Discuss seeing a doctor together:** Many conditions can cause memory loss or affect thinking and behavior so it's important to get a full medical evaluation.
- **Reach out for help:** Turn to the Alzheimer's Association for information and support.
  - Call their 24/7 Helpline at 800.272.3900 to speak with a master's-level clinician about your concerns and next steps.
  - Explore the Alzheimer's Association and AARP *Community Resource Finder* to find local resources such as a health care professional or your closest Alzheimer's Association chapter.
  - Visit their *Training and Education Center* to take an online course anytime and learn more about a variety of topics related to Alzheimer's and dementia.

This is a brief synopsis of an article that appeared in the NARFE February 2021 newsletter from the Alzheimer's Association.

**Charley and Barb Ware**  
**Alzheimer's Co-Coordinators**

### The Longest Day Alzheimer's Fund Raiser

June 20, 2021, The Longest Day, the day with the most light.

The COVID virus has put a crimp in our chapter fundraising for Alzheimer's research. **Your help** is needed to offset the diminished receipts.

For our NARFE Chapter 306 fundraiser this year, I encourage you to **start now** and save up between now and June 20, 2021 for your donation to the Longest Day. Then make your check payable to NARFE Chapter 306 and send it to me at 84 North Edgewood Drive, Hagerstown, MD 21740. On the memo line write Alzheimer's Research/The Longest Day. All donations received from Chapter 306 members will be sent to Treasurer Pandi Reed. She will then send a check to Eleanor Kaul, The Maryland Federation's Alzheimer's Coordinator.

Advances are being made every day. Each donation counts toward the goal of a cure.

**Thank you for your participation**

**Charley Ware, Alzheimer's Co-Chair**

### SPECIAL RAFFLE REPORT

Thank you for participating in NARFE Chapter 306 special raffle. I do appreciate all who send their entry forms to me to fill out and get them in the monthly drawing. Thanks **also** for sending address labels to use for speed and accuracy in finishing out your entry. No matter how much I mix them up the winner is often the last entry put in my box.

Congratulations to Lawrence Hoeck, our winner for March.

**Dorothy C. Smith, Special Raffle Coordinator**

***This is the last opportunity to enter the Raffle for 20-21 drawings, April, May and June. We hope to start the 21-22 year with the June newsletter.***

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### SPECIAL ANNUAL RAFFLE ENTRY

PRINT NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number (s) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ Or \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_

**MONTHLY PRIZE \$25.00**  
Starting September 2020  
Through June 2021 (10 months)

Attached is payment of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ entries

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

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*

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