

# Newsletter

April/May 2021

(Usually Published monthly September – June)

Vol. 38, No. 7

## UPCOMING MEETINGS/ACTIVITIES (Open to all)

### Chapter:

- **Members Meetings:** May 25, June 8\*
- **Newsletter Input Deadlines:** June 9
- **Board Meetings:** Jun 2

### Outside Events:

- NARFE Centennial Gala, Washington, D.C., June 21, virtual event.
- NARFE LegCon, (legislative training) from Washington, D.C., June 21-23, virtual event.

**NOTE:** Unless otherwise noted\*, our Members Meetings are held on the **4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays at 1:00 PM.** Please note that until further notice, we will meet via **videoconference using an online Zoom-LIKE platform.** If you cannot connect via the videoconference, you can hear the meeting on your phone using the teleconference number our chapter has used in the past. Link and telephone number information is on Page 2, under “What Happened? How will it Affect you?”

**Our Facebook Page:** NARFE Chapter 1892, Aspen Hill.

## Montgomery County Covid-19 Phone and Website Info

The Montgomery County Covid-19 Call Center Telephone Number is 240-777-1755. Folks at that number can help you find testing centers, get testing results, etc.

The Montgomery County Covid-19 website for the latest news and information, testing sites, registration for vaccination, and alerts is at: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/>  
For Maryland State information, go to: [www.COVIDVAX.Maryland.gov](http://www.COVIDVAX.Maryland.gov) or [www.coronavirus.maryland.gov/pages/vaccine](http://www.coronavirus.maryland.gov/pages/vaccine)

## President’s Message

For most of this year, we’ve published only electronic newsletters due to the pandemic. This issue is the first one since September 2020 that is both electronic and paper. If you are reading this electronically, just know that the paper copy will be arriving in your mailbox soon. If you haven’t received an electronic newsletter this year, that means that NARFE does not have your email address. Send me an email so I have your email address, and I will add it to the list. Otherwise, you may miss out on some of the newsletters and announcements of important events.

Our Chapter has been one of the few that has continued to have monthly meetings this year-- though virtual, they have been terrific! On May 25, our speaker, Senator Kramer, will virtually present a wrap-up of the 2021 session that just ended. It will be good to hear his take on this year’s progress, have him answer our questions, and allow him to hear our concerns. On June 8, we have another virtual meeting scheduled for 1 PM. Our original plan to have a picnic fell through, but we are looking for a virtual presentation that will be light hearted and allow us to celebrate the end of our NARFE Chapter 2020-2021 year.

Special request: I am looking for some folks to help with a few projects. If you have a little time to spare, please contact me (301-589-7465 or [NARFEsrichards@aol.com](mailto:NARFEsrichards@aol.com)). Projects can be done at home and/or soon, face-to-face. It is always a joy to use our skills and work together for a good cause, usually laughing.

Best wishes,

Sarah Richards  
301-589-7465  
([NARFEsrichards@aol.com](mailto:NARFEsrichards@aol.com))

## What Happened? How will it Affect you?

Maryland State **Senator Ben Kramer** provides a wrap-up of the 2021 State Legislative Session at our virtual chapter meeting on May 25th. Find out what new laws were passed. **Ask your questions** and provide ideas for new legislation. We are so lucky to have this Wheaton-raised senator take time from his busy day to address us. Let's make the most of his visit! Be sure to participate **May 25th at 1:00 PM** via videoconference or just regular phone teleconference. We have invited Wheaton/Glenmont, Rockville, and Leisure World Chapters to share this event with us.

The system will be accessible at 12:45 PM to allow folks to comfortably get online. Lines will be open for chatting during that period, too. You can easily access the meeting via the Zoom-like Videoconference system by computer, tablet, or smart phone. There is no app to download; **just click on the link** (best way to connect) or type in: <https://live.unlimitedconferencing.com/live/SarahRichards/myconference>.

Then type your name (first and last), select a sound type (may have to do that in two boxes if you don't like the default one or if the sound does not work). Then click on the box that says allow microphone and camera. You'll be able to see and hear us, as well as speak.

This system **does not work on the Internet Explorer** browser. You will need to use Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge, Safari or any other browser.

**If you prefer, you can participate with audio-only using any type of phone by calling 301-232-0143** and when asked, key in the pin number 887080 followed by the # sign. You will be connected to the meeting.

*Note: Since this is a multi-chapter meeting, it's your opportunity to say hello to folks you haven't seen in a while.*

## March/April Membership Report

The membership report from NARFE Headquarters for the months of March and April show that Joyce Friedenbergl joined our chapter and that 40 members renewed or were reinstated. Also, there were 11 prospective new members, (Susan Henry, Julie Boddy, Gary Levine, John Winkfield, James Ferris, Lara Beasley, Roni Falk, Areleas Kea, A. Noe, K. Wall, and Tawana Taylor). If you know any of the named folks, let them know we're the fun Chapter and encourage them to join us! Thank you all for renewing and a big welcome to Joyce!

## Don't Forget--Repeal WEP and GPO!

The Social Security Fairness Act, H.R. 82, was introduced by Representative Rodney Davis, R-IL, on January 4. The bill would repeal both the unfair Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO). WEP and GPO limit some Federal retirees from receiving all of the Social Security they earned. Go to the National NARFE website's Advocacy tab <https://new.narfe.org/advocacy/legislative-action-center/> to learn more and use the easy NARFE system **to send emails to your National legislators supporting this bill.**

## Chapter 1892 Leadership

**President**.....Sarah Richards  
301-589-7465.....NARFEsrichards@aol.com  
**V-Pres/State Leg/MD Fed. SLC Chair**.....Paul Schwartz  
301-260-1903  
**Secretary**..... Myron Chace  
301-330-4713  
**Treasurer**.....Jim Bachmaier  
301-946-2280  
**Membership**.....Merle Biggin  
301-814-6047  
**Membership Retention**.....Bob Kammer  
301-847-9820  
**Interim Newsletter Editor**..... Sarah Richards  
301-589-7465  
**Sunshine** .....Minnedore Green  
240-839-7043  
**Program Ideas/Past President** .....Linda Cohen  
301-806-3943  
**Alzheimer's**..... Cathy Hobbs  
301-924-4633  
**Historian/Past President** .....Rudy Volin  
301-598-2209

## **New Bipartisan Caucus to Fight for TAX RELIEF for Middle Class Families**

Congressman Jamie Raskin (MD-8) joined with other U.S. Representatives to announce the formation of the new bipartisan SALT Caucus that will advocate for new tax relief.

"We're formally launching a new bipartisan group — the SALT Caucus — because, for all our Members, and for the tens of thousands of middle-class families we represent, it is high time that Congress reinstates the State and Local Tax deduction, so we can get more dollars back in to the pockets of so many struggling families — especially as we recover from the pandemic," **said Rep. Josh Gottheimer, SALT Caucus Co-Chair.** "This bipartisan group we're founding today, with members from coast to coast and across the political spectrum, are all banding together to reinstate the State and Local Tax deduction, to find a way to get this done in Congress, and to actually get tax relief for the working middle-class families we represent." "Our effort to restore the SALT deduction is gaining momentum. Together, Democrats and Republicans alike, we will advocate for the restoration of the SALT deduction and highlight the middle-class families who have been unfairly hurt by the cap," **said Rep. Tom Suozzi, SALT Caucus Co-Chair.** "

"Half of all taxpayers in Maryland's 8th District benefit from the SALT deduction, with the average deduction reaching approximately \$19,000," **said Rep. Raskin, SALT Caucus Vice Chair.** "The \$10,000 cap imposed by the 2017 tax law has short-changed hardworking middle-class families. I'm proud to launch the bipartisan SALT Caucus to repeal the deduction cap."

### **In Memoriam**

Member *Joseph Anthony Ryan, Jr.* of Burtonsville, died December 26, 2020 at the age of 96. He was the beloved father of Kathy Poe; grandfather of Katie, Joseph A, and Robert R Poe; brother of Margaret Mary Ryan.

Member *Lewis A. Vendetti* of Rockville died on February 13, 2021 at the age of 85. He was the beloved husband of Mary Alice Vendetti; father of

Mike, Eddie, Vince, and Fr. Thomas Vendetti, LC, Mary Ferguson, Theresa Tkacik, Catherine Gomez, and the late Nancy Vendetti; was the grandfather of 26 and great grandfather of 4. A physicist for a Federal agency, he was also known for his award-winning photography and long-time participation with camera clubs, including the Holiday Park Camera Club. He played the trombone and was active in his church.

## **Understanding Insurance to Protect You and Your Property**

Kejuana Walton, Outreach Staffer for the Consumer Education and Advocacy Unit, Maryland Insurance Administration, gave a presentation at our April meeting. She noted that the Maryland Insurance Administration (MIA) is a state agency regulating insurance in Maryland, licensing insurance companies and agents under Maryland law as well as monitoring insurance company policies, reviewing rates, and investigating consumer complaints and fraud. MIA services are free (800-492-6116; [www.insurance.maryland.gov](http://www.insurance.maryland.gov)).

During her talk, she displayed 89 PowerPoint slides. The slides contain a wealth of information about automobile, home, renter's, and life insurance. Check the PowerPoint presentation for expanded information, insurance definitions, specifics, and examples of MIA insurance cost guides. Request the slides at [NARFEsrichards@aol.com](mailto:NARFEsrichards@aol.com).

She also discussed Insurance Fraud. A higher incidence of fraud involves automobile insurance, but fraud is found with: arson, inappropriate insurance sales practices, unnecessary medical tests, fake accidents and repairs, excessive billing, as well as scams involving Workers Comp, Social Security, and the IRS. **You can reduce fraud by** reviewing and understanding all insurance-related documents; making no on-the-spot decisions; keeping records and notes regarding insurance transactions; exercising caution when using the internet for insurance services; paying only by check or credit card; requesting evidence of licensing, liability insurance, etc., when employing contractors and taking photographs of work performed. Access the Maryland Insurance Administration website at: [www.insurance.maryland.gov](http://www.insurance.maryland.gov)

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## April/May 2021 Edition

Notes: (1) Thank you Myron Chase, Cathy Hobbs, and Anna Wilder for your help in writing articles or identifying topic materials and to Linda Jacks who proofreads the newsletter each month.  
(2) **Tuesdays, May 25 and June 8 are the next Chapter meetings.** They start at 1 PM and virtual access is the same as is mentioned on Page 2, in the article entitled, "What Happened? How will it Affect you?"

### Downsizing and Decluttering

Certified Move Manager, Heather Murphy, Director of Move Management Services with Abilities Network Senior Services gave a terrific presentation on March 23. She presented us with tips and information that we can use now to declutter our homes and prepare for a move. There isn't space to share all that information here, but if you want to see the presentation slides, request them at [NARFEsrichards@aol.com](mailto:NARFEsrichards@aol.com).

### The NARFE Traveling Trophy

Congratulations to Chapter 409 in Frederick, Maryland, for winning the 2020 NARFE Walk to End Alzheimer's Traveling Trophy! Kathy Siggins' team raised \$6,446. The trophy is awarded each year to NARFE's top fundraising team. This year marks Kathy's (pictured right) 28th year participating in the Walk to End Alzheimer's.

