



FALL 2021 NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



DR. SUDHA HALEY

Is our Maryland Federation a Trailblazer? You better believe it. We continue as a Shining Inspiration among other NARFE Federations. In our National NARFE's 100-year history, you are the first to have selected an Indian-American Woman President for our Maryland Federation, continuing to advance Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Service is a cornerstone of my life, fueled by passion and purposefulness, and I never lose sight of those I serve. It is my honor and a privilege to serve you as your President.

Our in-person Biennial Conference in Ocean City, in May, was a resounding success. In these unprecedented, challenging times, we took every precaution to keep our participating retired and active officers and members safe. All the distinguished speakers and guests, like NARFE National President **Ken Thomas**; State Secretary of Aging **Rona Kramer**; State Transportation Secretary **Gregory Slater**; Maryland Speaker Pro Tem **Sheree Sample-Hughes**, and many others, all secured by our Program Director **Ed Holland**, who attended in person, were thrilled to finally speak to a live audience. Our Lawmakers, including Senators **Ben Cardin** and **Chris Van Hollen**, House Majority Leader **Steny Hoyer** and others who could not attend in person, sent heartwarming messages of encouragement and support. In their videos, they promised to continue fighting to protect our pay and benefits. We will maintain our virtual meetings and communications with them, and hope that by 2022, we can plan to take our in-person Crusade to Capitol Hill.

At the Conference, and since then, in my virtual and in-person meetings with Federation Chapters, I have shared our ingenious and innovative Bold Idea Initiative. This is our opportunity to build a common and enduring commitment to be of service across Maryland. Each of us already volunteers for one or more organizations, but this one is in the name of our NARFE Federation. We are creating the **Maryland NARFE Corps of Volunteers**. We began by convening a Steering Committee to manage the Corps. We have already consulted with National NARFE President Ken Thomas, who was enthusiastic about our Initiative.

As our first Corps Volunteering venture, we are following the counsel of our State Secretary for Veterans Affairs **George Owings**, and our Regional Vice President **Dr. Gary Roundtree Sr.** We are planning to engage with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, in facilities across Maryland. We are generating a Brigade of Volunteers, ready to serve, where and when VA needs volunteers, in facilities located close to each of us. Once VA defines available volunteer opportunities and opens their facilities to volunteers, we will prepare to get vetted and trained.

We anticipate expanding our Corps services to other government agencies, when we meet with lawmakers and relevant officials from the Office of Personnel Management. When we demonstrate our dedicated service, the Maryland NARFE Corps of Volunteers Initiative, like our *Profiles in Civil Service*, is sure to be replicated in many other NARFE Federations. As the Public Face of NARFE, this will be a unique opportunity for many of us to serve. In addition, when we are invited inside the agencies, we would explain to current government employees, the benefits of being a NARFE member. Please let your Chapter President know that you are available to join MD NARFE Corps of Volunteers.

During the Maryland General Assembly, our successful collaboration with coalition partners like AARP, USM, and many others, helped us gain momentum on several NARFE state legislative priority issues. We continue our virtual interactions and communication with lawmakers on Capitol Hill and in Annapolis. When the Governor's race and other campaigns gear up, we will again collaborate with our partners, to convene Forums for the candidates. We will keep you informed and welcome your input.

NARFE National and Federations across the country continue to hemorrhage membership. Although, according to NARFE National, Maryland has a high (the fourth) number of Federal workers and retirees (312,512) in the U.S. and Territories, [after California (425,245), Texas (349,061), and Florida (316,329)], we are losing, rather than gaining members. Let us work on recruiting at least one member each, to build up our Federation membership.

We look forward to seeing you in person at our Federation Meeting and Training on **Monday, October 4, 2021**, at the Bowie Comfort Inn. We are presenting Training on: Running Successful Meetings; Chapter Leadership and Succession; Chapter Treasurer's Responsibilities; and Parliamentary Procedure. This will be combined with our Board meeting on October 4. We have, therefore, canceled the Training Day on October 29, 2021.

In these tumultuous times, as we try to meet all the challenges, personal, pandemic, and others, please keep our Veterans and Active Duty military in your continued prayers. They and their families sacrifice so very much to keep us safe and secure. As a Blue Star Mother of our Active Duty Engineer Lt. Colonel twin son, a leader at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, I especially salute one of our own Veterans, Chapter 1522 Acting President and highly decorated Sergeant Major **Barry Decker**. We deeply appreciate his brilliant leadership and dedication while serving our Nation, and now as he serves our NARFE Federation.

Would you throw the first pebble in the pond to start the ripple? Then please join our Maryland NARFE Corps of Volunteers. And remember, "No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."



President Dr. Sudha Haley with Rona Kramer, Maryland Secretary of Aging



President Dr. Sudha Haley with Gregory Slater, Maryland Secretary of Transportation



President Dr. Sudha Haley with Sheree Sample-Hughes, Maryland Speaker Pro Tempore of the Maryland House of Delegates

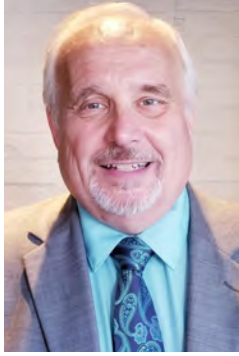


President Dr. Sudha Haley with Six Sigma speakers, Amita Sherwood (L) and Sheryl Vogt (R)

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Larry Walton

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

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

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Guidance from NARFE on Proposed COLA Legislation

The Fair COLA for Seniors Act

The Fair COLA for Seniors Act, H.R. 1553 in the 116th Congress, would require the use of the Consumer Price Index for the Elderly (CPI-E) instead of the current Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) to determine annual cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) for federal employees.

The CPI-E more accurately accounts for seniors' expenditures, reflecting increased spending on medicine, health care and other related items. Using the CPI-E to calculate COLAs would result in increased COLAs that better reflect the lifestyles and spending habits of retirees.

Under the current CPI-W measure, an individual's income (and that of Social Security recipients and veterans) fails to keep pace with inflation because the calculation does not truly represent how seniors spend their money.

While this bill has not yet been introduced in the 117th Congress, it is expected it to be Introduced soon.

Please ask your Representative to sign on as an original cosponsor to ensure federal retirees receive COLAs that not only keep up with inflation but match their spending habits and lifestyles.

The Equal COLA Act

If your Representative is already a cosponsor of the bill, please thank him/her for doing so and ask that he/she work with committee and congressional leadership to move the bill through the legislative process.

The Equal COLA Act, H.R. 304, would bring the annual COLAs for Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) retirees in line with the COLAs provided to Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) retirees and Social Security beneficiaries.

Current law holds the FERS COLA at two percent if the increase in the relevant consumer price index (CPI) falls between two and three percent, and it reduces FERS COLAs by one percentage point if the increase in the CPI exceeds three percent.

Please ask your Representative to cosponsor the Equal COLA Act to fix this inequitable policy that fails to fully protect the earned value of FERS annuities.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE (FLC) REPORT



Bruce A. Fowler Ph.D., A.T.S.
Chair, NARFE/MD Federal Legislative Committee
bafowler777@gmail.com

In June, NARFE's Headquarters convened our National Legislative Conference, LEGCon21. We heard remarks from selected members of Congress, and from our headquarters' colleagues including President Ken Thomas, Jessica Klement, John Hatton, Marsha Padilla-Goad, Seth Ickes, and Ross Apter. Some of their topics related to: Preparing for and Executing Congressional Meetings; Understanding Congressional Bills, Laws, Committees, and Budgets; Influence, Action and Impact...Being a Successful NARFE Advocacy Leader; The Relationship Building Toolkit to Influence Lawmakers; How to Activate your NARFE Grassroots Advocacy; Tailoring your "Ask" and making the most of your Congressional Meeting; and NARFE-PAC and its role in Advancing NARFE's Advocacy Strategy.

Among all the legislation critical and relevant to protecting our pay and benefits, headquarters chose three top priorities to take to our Lawmakers: (1) The Social Security Fairness Act, which would fully repeal both the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO); (2) The Postal Service Reform Act; and (3) The Equal Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) Act.

On the third day, which was Advocacy Day, we met virtually with our Congressmen and Senators' staff, to discuss our legislation priorities. Senator Van Hollen virtually joined us, during our advocacy discussion with his Policy Advisor Harry Stein.

Clearly, it will be some time before large groups of people can comfortably visit members of Congress on Capitol Hill. However, every member of Congress (MOC) has a local district office and it has been my experience in the past that they and their staff are more relaxed and receptive to requests from constituents in such smaller settings. The best times to get appointments for a face-to-face meeting in these local offices is when Congress is in recess in August. In addition to direct personal meetings, MOCs also use video electronic media such as Zoom and webcasts to communicate with constituents on evolving important issues.

I recently attended a webcast roundtable hosted by Congressman Trone and House Majority Leader Hoyer on issues related to the growing problem of helping persons with disabilities and the American Disabilities Act (ADA). This is an important area in which NARFE members could help. Our Maryland NARFE Corps of Volunteers could assist in agencies and help confront issues like COVID, the growing number of disabled persons, unemployment, and education of the next generations, among others. So, please decide to Volunteer for our Corps.



Paul Schwartz
State Legislative Committee Chair
pknyanks@aol.com

STATE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE (SLC) REPORT

Maryland, Maryland, a state still searching for its identity. While it is commonly considered a rather deep “blue” state politically, having a Republican governor has resulted in federal unemployment relief payments being cut short two full months early.

On the brighter side...well, actually, if you are a retiree looking for some tax relief, there isn't any bright side. However, we on the State Legislative Committee have no plans to slow down our advocacy for retirees, especially NARFE retirees.

As we continue our efforts, our focus is on gaining legislators' understanding of the economic impact on Maryland's economy of senior migration to more tax-friendly states. According to research by the State Legislative Committee's own Bob Goldberg, “nine states do not have any state income tax and 14 states exempt all or part of Federal pensions from state and local taxes.” Other states actively recruit seniors with tax incentives because they recognize the value of seniors as economic engines for job and revenue generation. Indeed, Maryland has experienced larger-than-average population losses among seniors. This loss is being exacerbated by the federal tax code change of 2017, which eliminated the ability to fully deduct state taxes on one's federal taxes.

Additionally, we have not given up on “decoupling” state returns from federal returns. The Maryland Federation's conference in Ocean City in May paid dividends as we were able to gain the support of State Senator

Mary Carozza to our cause. Further, my op-ed in the May 25 edition of *Maryland Matters* spelled out in vivid detail the illogic of the decoupling legislation fiscal note for all Marylanders, including state legislators, to see.

As you may recall, the exorbitant cost found in the fiscal note for the decoupling legislation was based on a rather ridiculous assumption based on misapplied data. The fiscal note indicated that, as a result of the increased federal standard deduction resulting from the 2017 federal tax law, some 680,000 Maryland taxpayers moved from itemizing their deductions to taking the standard deduction. The fiscal note then falsely concludes that with decoupling of the federal and state returns, ALL 680,000 taxpayers would return to itemizing on their state returns while taking the newly increased standard deduction on the federal return. This assumption, of course, failed to recognize that without any of the tax deductions eliminated with the 2017 federal legislation added back, the likelihood of ALL 680,000 taxpayers returning to itemizing on their state returns with decoupling is highly unlikely, if not downright ridiculous.

MDNARFE-PAC REPORT



Bob Doyle

MDNARFE-PAC Coordinator

MDNARFE-PAC Treasurer

bdoyle47@verizon.net



MDNARFE-PAC Needs Your Help!

Because the Federation Newsletter is distributed directly to all Federation leadership – Chapter Officers and Committee Officers and members – I wanted to send our leadership two important messages.

First, I would ask all Chapters who do NOT have a member who serves on the State Legislative Committee (SLC) to recruit a member for this task. The obvious choice would be your Chapter Legislative Officer, but, of course, any Chapter member is eligible. Ideally, we would like at least one member in all 28 Chapters to serve on the SLC. To see the latest news from the SLC, please see the Report from our Chair Paul Schwartz in this Newsletter.

Second, I would ask all Chapter Presidents to communicate to their membership that the MDNARFE-PAC can help if your members wish to attend fundraisers for the Maryland State Senators and Delegates in your Chapter's District. Although the current SLC members are in Chapters that cover several legislative districts, there are many districts not covered. If you or your member are interested in attending a local fundraiser, please contact me directly (contact information is at the end of this report.)

As you all know, the MDNARFE-PAC, through the Federation's 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.

Recently, SLC members have attended fundraisers for Delegate Eric Luedtke (D-Dist. 14 Montgomery County), Delegate Dana Jones (D-Dist. 30 Anne Arundel County), Senator Craig Zucker (D-Dist. 14 Montgomery County) and Delegate Vaughn Stewart (D-Dist. 19 Montgomery County). At these fundraisers, our attendees have the opportunity to talk with the Delegate or Senator about the NARFE SLC legislative program. Often these fundraisers are attended by other members of the Maryland House and Senate, which gives us a chance to also talk with them.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you as soon as we can once again have in-person Board meetings in Bowie, probably in October. Until then, please communicate to your Chapter membership that they can 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. Further, contributions to MDNARFE-PAC must be made only by individual members, and not by Chapters using Chapter funds.)

Please make your check payable to: MDNARFE-PAC. Mail to: Robert Doyle, Treasurer, MDNARFE-PAC, 4226 Carvel Lane, Edgewater, MD 21037 bdoyle47@verizon.net

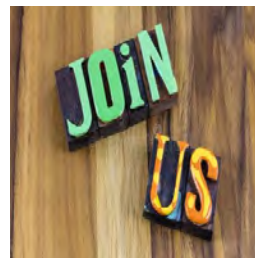
I would be happy to speak to your Chapter, either in a Zoom meeting or in person when we can do that, about the work of our PAC and the SLC. Please contact me directly to arrange this.
Bob Doyle, Home: 410-798-0079; Cell/Text: 301-693-1774; bdoyle47@verizon.net

MEMBERSHIP REPORT



Edward Holland

2nd Vice President, Membership Director



**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**

It goes without saying that I owe the many NARFE/MD members who voted for me a big thank you! I am truly humbled by your generosity. More importantly, I intend to work for all in the NARFE/MD family. Kudos to fellow Marine Ed Reed who has taken me under his wing and allowed us to form a partnership.

At present, the Maryland Federation of NARFE has 6,059 chapter members and 5,384 national members for a total of 11,443 members in Maryland. As your member to the Region II Strategic Membership Planning Committee, the goal is to craft a strategic membership recruitment plan that will benefit Maryland, Delaware, District of Columbia, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. The NARFE MD Federation donated \$250.00 towards a pool of funds to assist Region II's efforts. The goal is to recruit 2,500 new members. To that end, the Committee bounced around numerous questions before setting on five questions to be used for a Region II Survey. Also, the Committee—under Region II Vice President Dr. Gary Roundtree—will be using the Lean Six Sigma Team Development process, which is broken down into Four steps. To understand the process of a team development is an important first step to high performance, but the objective of moving the team quickly to the more productive phases of Norming and Performing:

- A. Form Phase- As a group forms and members learn how to deal with one another.
- B. Storming Phase- The storming phase is named for the swirling change, emotion, and group conflicts that change rationalize this step of the process.
- C. Norming Phase- As teams resolve issues generated in the storming phase reach consensus in the team. Meaning resolving difference of opinions and finding agreement to work together to complete the task.
- D. Performing Phase- As teams mature, they may enter the most productive phase of the team development – Performing.

Who can join NARFE? Membership is open to civilians who are or will be eligible to receive an annuity or survivor annuity from the federal retirement programs of any agency of the United States government including: retirees; active employees; spouses and surviving spouses of those eligible to join NARFE; former employees; a former spouse who is legally entitled to a federal survivor annuity. Why should they join NARFE? No other organization is solely dedicated to continually protect and preserve the earned pay, retirement and health care benefits of all federal employees, retirees and their survivors. Members have access to NARFE's Federal Benefits Institute, an online learning center. One-on-one help is also available from federal benefits specialists from this institute. Members have powerful representation and advocacy before Congress, the Office of Personnel Management and the White House. Members-only website access to the latest federal news and interactive Legislative Action Center. Members-only perks designed to help them save time, money and hassle. Discounts, deals and special rates on an ever-growing list of benefits on travel, health, senior housing, moving, telecom services and more.

Membership Directorate stands ready to work with you on creating or enhancing your Facebook presence to announce your meetings and potential recruitment drives. Any of your ideas to increase membership will be welcomed. Regarding your pointers or questions, please contact me at 301-848-3476 or hollandnmd@aol.com.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Program Director: Edward Holland

www.narfedebk.com 128458625

As the Program Director, I am responsible for securing speakers/guest participants for all Federation meetings and events and ensuring their comforts, 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 Directorate. 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 May 3-4 Biennial Conference, we received rave reviews for the speakers. They were:

Kenneth Thomas, President, NARFE
Gregory Slater, Maryland Secretary of Transportation - *opening speaker (May 3)*
Rona Kramer, Maryland Secretary of Aging
Mary Beth Carozza, Member, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, Maryland Senate
William Smith, Chair, Judiciary Committee, Maryland Senate - *opening speaker (May 4)*
Josh Kurtz, Co-Founder & Editor, *Maryland Matters*
Susan Flashman, President, MD/DC Alliance for Retired Americans
Todd Desgrosseilliers, President & Chief Executive Officer, Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing Inc.
Sheree Sample-Hughes, Speaker Pro Tem, Maryland General Assembly

The Program Directorate generated thank you letters to the speakers. The recurring theme was that the speakers enjoyed mingling and learning from their NARFE/MD friends. Feel free to contact us at 301-848-3476 / hollandnmd@aol.com or rkkpkint@comcast.net.



Public Relations Director: Edward Holland

As the Public Relations Director, outreach to the public has resulted in an awareness of NARFE and an increase in our membership. As a chapter president, I have been fortunate to see an increase in chapter membership, recently receiving a nice check for the NARFE recruitment effort. 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's positions on current issues; ensure that Federation and 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 001-2021. If your president has not forwarded a press release to you, please contact me. More importantly, we are now a member of the MDDC Press Association. This was done to increase our messaging platform. If you have need of press services, feel free to check out the MDDC Press' website – <https://mddcpress.com/>. Feel free to contact us at 301-848-3476 / hollandnmd@aol.com or rkkpkint@comcast.net.

NARFE MD Liaison to the Fraternal Order of Police: Edward Holland

During this reporting period, President Dr. Sudha Haley authorized me to support U.S. Senator Cardin's reintroduction of the Witness Security and Protection Grant Program Act (S. 2531/H.R. 4467), which had previously been led by another NARFE Champion, the late Congressman Elijah Cummings, and now Congressman Mfume would support. This was joint NARFE/MD and FOP support. A similar request is pending with NARFE National.

Stay safe.

<https://www.facebook.com/NARFEMDFED/> Facebook
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/arfe-md-federation> LinkedIn
Maryland Federation Website at WWW.MDNARFE.ORG

TREASURER'S REPORT



Stuart Sklamm, Treasurer srsklamm@msn.com

NARFE MARYLAND FEDERATION FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF JUNE 30, 2021

As indicated in the report below, we are projecting a loss of \$22,337 for calendar year 2021. This is due to three factors: the biennial conference resulted in a loss of \$16,339; the Federation President's meeting will cost the Federation approximately \$5,000; and revenues from the NARFE 10 percent remittance have been inconsistent, ranging from \$2,283.57 to \$5,826.04. Our Bank of America balances are as follows: Checking - \$8,095.44 and Savings - \$80,628.65. We also have a \$10,000 certificate of deposit at Sandy Spring Bank.

NARFE MARYLAND FEDERATION FINANCIAL REPORT 6/30/21

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT BUDGETED	ACTUAL AMOUNT	DIFFERENCE (+OR-)
INCOME			
Chapter Per Capita Tax	\$ 3600	\$ 3260	\$ 340
February Board Meeting	2250	525	1725
Federation Biennial Conference	10000	3420	6580
Federation Training Session	2250		2250
Interest	50	17	33
NARFE National 10% Remittance	<u>40000</u>	<u>21256</u>	<u>18744</u>
TOTAL	\$58150	\$28478	\$29672
EXPENSES			
Administration	\$ 7000	\$ 5022	\$ 1978
Chapter Assistance	1000		1000
February Board Meeting	1000	500	500
Federation Biennial Conference	30000	19759	
Federation Executive Committee	1000		1000
Federation Federal Legislative Committee	2500		2500
Federation State Legislative Committee	1500		1500
Federation Training Session	5000		5000
Membership	1000	289	711
NARFE Federation Presidents Meeting (San Antonio)	7500	1808	5692
NARFE Legislative Conference (LEGcon21)	8500	1350	7150
NARFE Centennial GALA	5000		5000
Newsletter	3150	978	2172
October Board Meeting	5900		5900
Program Director	800		800
United Seniors of Maryland	500		500
Website	<u>500</u>	<u>135</u>	<u>365</u>
TOTAL	\$81850	\$29841	\$52009
GAIN(LOSS)	(-23700)	(-1363)	(-22337)



Patricia Farmer, Secretary

301-776-4645 / buttonspaf@aol.com

SECRETARY'S REPORT

As the Maryland Federation of NARFE's Representative to the Maryland Gerontological Association (MGA), and as the MGA Vice President for Administration, I would like to personally thank those NARFE/MD members who attended the joint MGA and Maryland Philanthropy Network's Affinity Group on Aging's Virtual Annual Summit on June 16: President Dr. Sudha Haley; Immediate Past President and current Region II Vice President Dr. Gary Roundtree Sr.; Immediate Past Membership Director/2nd VP Ed Reed; Parliamentarian/President Chapter 422 Sam Raines; and Co-President of Chapter 1260 Tiffany Daniel. I really appreciate your participation In this virtual event.

Themed "Beyond the Pandemic, Models for Aging in the Community," the conference featured esteemed speakers: Dr. Gregory Wm. Branch, MD, MBA, CPE, FACP, Director and Health Officer, Baltimore County Department of Health and Human Services; Laura Riley, Director Baltimore County Department of Aging; and Sarah Szanton, PhD, ANP, RAAN, Patricia M. Davidson Health Equity and Social Justice Endowed Professor and Director of the Center for Innovative Care in Aging at the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing. We learned about accomplishments during the pandemic; lessons learned from the COVID-19 experience; and local and national models for Aging in the Community. Of note, is **CAPABLE**, a program developed at the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing for low-income seniors to safely age in place. The approach teams a nurse, an occupational therapist and a handy worker to address both the home environment and uses the strengths of the older adults themselves to improve safety and independence. Go to nursing.jhu.edu/faculty_research/research/projects/capable/ to learn more about this program.

My secretarial work for the Federation continued during the summer months: finalizing the Biennial Conference minutes take by Assistant Secretary Virginia Bender in my absence (**Thanks very much, Virginia!**); compiling the results of the conference evaluation forms; recording minutes of our monthly Executive Committee virtual meetings; and responding to other requests and email as required.)

I would also like to extend my thanks and appreciation for the Get-Well and Thinking of You cards I received from officers, chapters and individual members, after I wasn't able to attend the Biennial Conference in Ocean City in early May. As of this writing (mid-July) and two months after the doctor's order, I started (July 23) with home physical therapy and occupational therapy, with the goal of being able to walk without any assistive devices. I look forward to my goal becoming a reality.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED: If you are interested in joining the Federation Registration Committee, please contact Pat Farmer, buttonspaf@aol.com or 301-776-4645.

REGION II VICE PRESIDENT REPORT



GARY ROUNDTREE SR., PH.D.
VICE PRESIDENT REGION II

groundtreesr@hotmail.com 443-929-7945

Hello Maryland Federation of NARFE Members. It gives me immense pleasure to announce that all newsletter Editors' access to the NARFE Email System (NES) has now been activated.

The Region II Strategic Membership Planning Committee, tasked with developing and drafting a new recruitment plan, is using Lean Six Sigma tools, which will eliminate waste and defects in the process and improve the organization and members/customer satisfaction 100 percent. The Committee is now in the phase and process of collecting information and survey data from NARFE members and nonmembers to determine the root cause of the problem -- Why are many civil servants of various government agencies not joining NARFE and/or renewing their membership? as our membership numbers are steadily declining.

Region II RVP Gary Roundtree Sr., Ph.D., and National President Ken Thomas had the great honor of participating and speaking to the New Jersey Federation members at their Biennial Conference on April 21, 2021 by Zoom/online seminar.

The NARFE Federation Presidents Meeting and National Executive Board (NEB) Meeting, are scheduled to take place August 9-13, 2021 in San Antonio, Texas. More information about this relevant matter is forthcoming.

I was elected in May by members of the National Audit Committee to be the new incoming Chair of the committee and National Compliance Officer at NARFE HQ. I am humble and honored to serve the members of Region II in this capacity on the National Executive Board (NEB). I have also been selected by NARFE President Ken Thomas to serve as a member of the NARFE Strategic Planning Committee. Contact me if you have suggested changes to the structure of the NARFE organization.

The Maryland Federation, under Dr. Sudha Haley, President, has put into motion the MD NARFE Corps of Volunteers, who will initially be volunteering and working with current Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in Maryland, Washington, D.C., and Martinsburg, W. Va. VA Medical Centers and outpatient clinics throughout Region II. This will give NARFE access to the third largest government agency to potentially recruit new active civil servants in the federal government. The VA has 377,079 employees nationwide and in the US territories. The Region II RVP and the MD FED President have already negotiated an agreement with the Maryland VA Health Care program manager who oversees all VA volunteers in Maryland VA facilities. We met by Zoom on May 25 and 26 with the Washington, D.C. VA Medical Center and VA Martinsburg, W.Va. program Managers to allow MD NARFE

Corps volunteers to work and assist current feds and veterans in these states and jurisdictions. If you would like to know more about MD NARFE Corps of Volunteers, you may contact me by phone, or my email listed above, or in your federation directory.



MD House Speaker Adrienne Jones, District 10, Baltimore County, and NARFE Region II Vice President Dr. Gary Roundtree Sr. at the Speaker's first in-person fundraiser on June 9 at the Overhills Mansion in Catonsville.



Eleanor Kaul

*Coordinator, Federal Employee and Education
Assistance – Scholarships and Disaster Fund
Coordinator, Alzheimer's Research Fund*
eekaul@comcast.net 410-896-4354

NARFE Scholarship
Awards or Disaster Fund
c/o FEEA
1641 Prince Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

ALZHEIMER'S REPORT

The following information is from a July 24, 2021 email from Harry Johns, Chief Executive Officer for Alzheimer's Association, to Kathy Siggins, Region II Alzheimer's Chair. Alzheimer's Association has advocated for approval of "Aducanumab" now called "Aduhelm." The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) gave accelerated approval on June 7, 2021. Although not a cure, "it has the potential to give more time to those with Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI) or those with early stage Alzheimer's dementia." Because of NARFE support, this is the first treatment ever to achieve such approval. Alzheimer's "is committed to work with Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), health insurance companies and others in the private payer community to expedite coverage and access." Alzheimer's supports further inquiries for the approval process.

For further information contact Megeen White, MS, RN, Program Manager, Alzheimer's Association Greater Maryland Chapter. Office 301-696-0315 ext. 1823 or direct 240-549-5086, mewwhite@alz.org.

Although chapters have not been meeting, here are ways some chapters have raised money.
Chapter 409 Frederick: \$550 - in memory of Jeri O'Conner; bake table raffle, 50/50 raffle with half to winner and other half to Alzheimer's; some winners donate their half to Alzheimer's.
Chapter 1747 Greater Bowie/Crofton: \$302 - 50/50 raffle and donation drive at big box stores.
Chapter 306 Hagerstown: \$503 - In the newsletters, urged members to "start saving now" the Longest Day in June and also passed the can at meetings.
The 50/50 raffle seems a good way to raise donations with the least effort.

For the period July 1, 2020 to May 31, 2021 in Region II, Maryland has the highest donations of \$9,108; Pennsylvania is second at \$7,559.

Remember to use Alzheimer's stamps.

Federal Employees Education & Assistance (FEEA) REPORT

FEEA, Federal Employees Education & Assistance fund, sent a thank you for the \$217.50 from the 2021 Conference. The June/July *narfe* Magazine, page 49 has the form for FEEA donations. Indicate scholarship on the check.

2021 scholarship winners are scheduled to be announced in August.

Go to scholarship@narfe.org for the scholarship application.



Happy 100th birthday NARFE! To celebrate, Chapter 1734, of Howard County, Md., donated 732 toiletries and 1,312 diapers to a local organization, Columbia Community Cares. Co-Presidents Mel Robinson (in back under tree on left) and Mark Wong (on right), and chapter members are shown in the photo below.



U.S. Representative Anthony Brown (MD-04) spoke at the NARFE Chapter 1747 (Greater Bowie-Crofton) Fair Conference via Zoom on May 5, 2021. Screen shot below provided by Congressman Brown's office.



PHOTOS FROM BIENNIAL CONFERENCE, OCEAN CITY, MD, MAY 4-5, 2021



Region II VP Dr. Gary Roundtree Sr. (L) installed newly elected NARFE/MD Officers: (L-R) Virginia Bender standing in for Secretary Pat Farmer; President Dr. Sudha Haley; 1st VP Larry Walton; and 2nd VP Edward Holland. Treasurer Stuart Sklamm is not pictured.



Maryland Federation Officers and Members were recognized with Certificates of Achievement.



Joan & Stu Sklamm enjoy the rocking chairs on the porch at Dunes Manor.



Pandi and Ed Reed at the Installation Banquet



Eleanor Kaul (L), NARFE/MD Alzheimer's Coordinator, and Kathy Siggins, Region II Alzheimer's Rep., holding awards. Kathy is holding the NARFE Traveling trophy she and her team won at last year's Walk to End Alzheimer's.



Melanie & Ed Holland "cutting a rug!"



Carla & Jim Duls dancing at the banquet.



Entertainer Trish with Doug & Debbie Fischer



Larry Walton (standing) with Ed Reed and Geneva Leon, displaying their door prizes.



Kathy Siggins and J.D. Brooks relax and have a bite to eat in the Zippy Lewis Lounge.



Vintage Entertainment, Frank and Trish, entertained at the Installation Banquet.



1st VP Larry Walton and President Dr. Sudha Haley dance at the Banquet.



Kathy Siggins dances at the banquet with the wife of one of our speakers, Todd Desgrosseilliers who spoke on Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing.



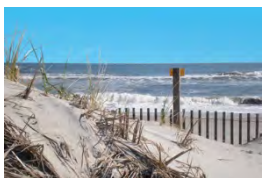
National NARFE President Ken Thomas addresses Biennial Conference attendees.



Dr. Raj Mahajan, Dr. Kenneth Haley, Dr. Sudha Haley and Dr. Shakuntla Mahajan offer a toast at the Banquet.



Arlene Page greets Dr. Gary Roundtree Sr. Standing is Dan McGrath and seated is Maxine Roundtree.



A good time was had by all at the Maryland Federation of NARFE's Biennial Conference in Ocean City in May. There were informative speakers and workshops. Everyone enjoyed being able to be there in person even though there were some COVID-19 precautions taken to keep everyone safe and healthy. The usual vendors were missed; we only had one in-person vendor there. Thanks to everyone who made the event possible.

FEDERATION DIRECTORY (abbreviated)

Executive Committee

President	Dr. Sudha Haley	410-535-4998	sudhabhagwat2002@yahoo.com
1 st VP, Legislative Director	Larry Walton	443-831-1791	lrwalto@yahoo.com
2 nd VP, Membership Director	Edward Holland	301-848-3476	hollandnmd@aol.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
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Past President	Ted Jensen	301-667-3165	grandpated1@gmail.com
Past President	Ron Bowers	410-308-0420	narfebowers@msn.com

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Resolutions Committee Chair	Larry Lange	301-644-1875	llange3751@aol.com	

Service Officer	Vacant		
State Legislation Committee Chair	Paul Schwartz	240-838-2200	pksyanks@aol.com
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Region II Configuration Advisory Board Rep	Howard Gordon	301-464-2745	flash @acm.org

Chapters and Presidents

126 Western Charles/Indian Head	Ed Rice	1522 Susquehanna (Acting)	Barry Decker, Acting
126 Co-Presidents	Ron Bush	1734 Howard County	Co-President Mel Robinson
251 Annapolis	Carla Duls	Co-Presidents	Co-President Mark Wong
258 Western Montgomery County	Lois Ann Beaver	1747 Greater Bowie/Crofton	Frank Lee
306 Hagerstown	Patricia Nix	1770 Bel Air	James Wood
409 Frederick	Elinor Abrell	1887 Wheaton/Glenmont	Ron Shansby
410 West-Mar	Daniel Moore	1888 White Oak	Marcia Swanson
422 Laurel	Samuel Raines	1892 Aspen Hill	Sarah Richards
969 St. Mary's County	Boyd Loflin	1936 N.W. Baltimore Metro	Barbara Cuffie
1127 Rockville	Co-Presidents Nan Donnell & Allen Ford	1936 Co-Presidents	Bessie Johnson
1143 Leisure World	Joe Cook, Acting	1972 Waldorf/La Plata	Edward Holland
1260 Southern Prince George's County	Brenda Hill-Johnson	2262 Upper Marlboro	P.A. Jeffries
1260 Co-Presidents	Tiffany Daniel	2274 Ocean Area	Larry Walton
1372 Tidewater	Gerry Phillips	2306 Carroll County	Charles Harrison
1466 Calvert County	Barry Grier		
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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P.O. Box 3527, Laurel, MD 20709

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*****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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with links for Easy Browsing!

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2021

August 17, 2021	Call Letter for Oct. 5 Board Meeting Sent Out
September 20, 2021	Registration Deadline for Oct. 5 Board Meeting
October 4, 2021	Executive Committee Meeting/Prior to Fall Board
October 5, 2021	Fall Board Meeting, Bowie Comfort Inn
October 29, 2021	Call for Inputs to 2022 Budget
November 24, 2021	Winter Newsletter Articles Due to Editor Pat Farmer