



## NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES



Volume 13, Issue 8

Hagerstown MD

October 2021

### From the Desk of the President

#### **NARFE Chapter Members**

We had a good Membership Meeting on September 10 at Western Sizzlin'. Jeremy Brown of HomeCentris was our guest speaker. Jeremy won the free lunch ticket and graciously donated it back to the Chapter. Thank you, Jeremy.

Our next Membership Meeting is October 8, 2021 at Western Sizzlin' Restaurant. Kim Torsiello, LPN, from the Washington County Commission on Aging will be our guest speaker. One of the topics she will discuss is Fall Prevention.

Remember, falls are not a normal part of aging and are preventable. Take the Falls Free Checkup <https://aging.maryland.gov/pages/falls/aspx>.

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

### Treasurer's Report

<b>Aug. 19, 2021</b>	<b>Balance</b>		<b>\$1,579.27</b>
		<b>Credits</b>	<b>\$ 343.14</b>
		<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 37.09</b>
<b>Sept. 20, 2021</b>	<b>Balance</b>		<b>\$1,885.32</b>

**P. Reed, Treasurer Chapter 0306**

### Secretary's Report for October 2021 Newsletter

President Pat Nix welcomed 17 members and three guests to today's meeting. She reminded us of the 50/50 and free lunch drawings, the Alzheimer's donation can, the chapter's Special Raffle. She reminded us to remember our waitress. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all and Pat offered a blessing. All enjoyed lunch. Ice cream was available for dessert!

Following lunch, our guest speaker Jeremy Brown of HomeCentris Personal Care gave a presentation. Jeremy introduced his dad, Roy Brown, and a co-worker, Margie McWilliams. Jeremy gave a brief history of this organization and shared that 1200 clients are served daily in both Washington and Frederick Counties. He talked about services provided by HomeCentris Personal Care and their VetAssist Program. Handouts and pens were available for all in attendance.

**OLD BUSINESS:** ## Newsletter Editor Dot Buhrman sent a postcard to chapter members without an email address stating: "HAGERSTOWN NARFE CHAPTER 306 will be sending the Monthly Newsletter by email ONLY." Members who would like to receive our newsletter but have not previously provided an email address were asked to provide one to President Pat Nix by August 1, 2021. All were reminded that this email list is solely for Chapter 306 and WILL NOT be used for any other purpose except chapter communications. ##The Washington County Commission on Aging Senior Activity Center is open. You must be registered for a class to enter the building and masks are mandatory. You can call Jackie or Desiree at 301-790-0275, ext. 243 or 246, for more information.

**REPORTS:** ##Vice President/Legislation Ed Reed offered the following: (a) thanked all for attending and asked them to bring a friend next month; (b) asked all to mark their calendars for the second Friday of each month through June 2022 for our noon Membership Meetings; (c) thanked all for supporting our Chapter's Special Raffle; it has kept us afloat this past year of Pandemic; (d) reminded all that they may announce their birthday date in any upcoming newsletter; it only requires a \$25 donation or check to any of our Leadership Team. All checks should be made payable to NARFE Chapter 306 for all Chapter business. (e) distributed a zerox copy of a new NARFE Headquarters program named FEDHub which is Headquarters' way of opening a new program for computer users similar to Facebook where individuals may interact with other NARFE members and socialize and speak to NARFE programs in their chapters, etc. All information on this new program will be published soon in the NARFE magazine as well as through other NARFE computer news weekly. (f) asked all to take home the handouts from our speaker and officers and share them with friends, neighbors, etc. ##Secretary Barb Ware had no report. Thanks to Ed Reed for providing the June Leadership Meeting Report that appeared in our September 2021 newsletter. ##Treasurer Pandi Reed reported: (a) a checking account balance of \$1,579.27; (b) she closed our Bulk Mail account on September 8, 2021; (c) Free Lunch drawings will continue; (d) winners of drawings were Charley Ware for the 50/50 (\$42 had been collected) and Jeremy Brown for the Free Lunch. ##Membership Chairperson Dorothy Smith (a) announced she would be resigning her position due to health reasons; (b) talked about the current NARFE Membership Drive. (c) see Dorothy's final Membership report elsewhere in this newsletter. **THANK YOU, DOROTHY, FOR ALL THE YEARS YOU SERVED AS MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON!** ##Special Raffle Chairperson Dorothy Smith will continue to serve in this position. Charley Ware was the lucky winner! You can read her report in our October newsletter. ##Alzheimer's Co-Chair Charley Ware (a) announced that \$203 had been collected for the Alzheimer's Longest Day fundraiser; (b) distributed a flyer entitled *How is Alzheimer's Disease Diagnosed?* (d) provided a pamphlet *NARFE's Participation in the Alzheimer's Research Program -- Advancing Alzheimer's research since 1985.* ##Newsletter Editor Dot Buhrman (a) announced her deadline for the October newsletter is **10:00 a.m. on Friday, September 24, 2021!!** (b) reminded all that our newsletter is being sent out to all who have email addresses. ##Service Officer Tom Brudenell was not with us today.

**NEW BUSINESS:** ##A group of us enjoyed lunch at the new Hub City Diner on August 20, 2021. This was the first social gathering since the pandemic began. Thanks to President Pat for coordinating this event and thanks to all who attended! ##Please remember to bring **CANNED GOODS** to our October Membership Meeting.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS:** ##Hagerstown Chapter 306 Leadership Team Meeting, October 1, 2021, at the Smithsburg Veterans Park; ##NARFE Maryland Federation Board Meeting, October 4, 2021, via ZOOM; ##Hagerstown Chapter 306 Membership Meeting, October 8, 2021, at Western Sizzlin' Restaurant. Guest Speaker will be Kim Torsiello, LPN, talking about Falls Prevention; ##Hagerstown Chapter 306 Leadership Team Meeting, November 5, 2021, location TBA; ##Hagerstown Chapter 306 Membership Meeting, November 12, 2021, at Western Sizzlin' Restaurant. FEHB representatives will share 2022 FEHB updates; ##Hagerstown Chapter 306 Leadership Team Meeting, December 3, 2021, location TBA; ##Hagerstown Chapter 306 Membership Meeting/Christmas Party, December 10, at Western Sizzlin' Restaurant.

**Respectfully submitted, Barbara Ware, Secretary**

**Legislation Report**

**LEGISLATION:** Since **ADVOCACY is one of NARFE's Primary Activities for ALL its Members**, I have prepared a Composite of current NARFE Legislative Information this month! NARFE's Advocacy Refocuses as Members of Congress have returned to Capitol Hill. NARFE's advocacy team is looking toward Congress' pushing forward with its legislative priorities. The House broke its summer recess and returned to Capitol Hill to further negotiations on the fiscal year 2022 (FY22) budget. The House Committee on Oversight and Reform furthered its role in the budget reconciliation process, voting favorably to implement the instructions provided to the committee by **S.Con.Res.14**, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for FY22. The resolution provides instructions to the committees on how to proceed with the budget framework. Congress will incorporate the Committees' policies into a reconciliation bill, which both chambers will then consider. \* What's in the bill? The legislation would provide \$12 billion to GSA and USPS to electrify vehicles, build charging stations and enhance infrastructure. One billion dollars would go to the Technology Modernization Fund to modernize high priority systems. Two billion would go to the Federal Citizen Services Fund to improve federal cyber security and delivery of critical services. Information technology oversight and reform initiatives at the Office of Management and Budget are slated for \$350 million. \* In August, 13 Representatives joined the list of cosponsors of the Social Security Fairness Act of 2021, **H.R. 82**, legislation to fully repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO). It is not a coincidence that 13 additional Representatives signed on as cosponsors, but rather a direct result of NARFE Members' hard work. WEP reform legislation, the Public Servants Protection and Service Act, **H.R. 2337**, didn't gain as much traction, adding only one additional cosponsor during the recess. \* As you know, NARFE supports both repeal and reform bills because they would provide much-needed financial relief to retirees affected. ALL NARFE Members are encouraged to continue their advocacy to increase the number of cosponsors to 290, which would force a vote by the full chamber.

\* **Stay Informed and Engaged:** Do you know if your lawmaker is a cosponsor of NARFE-supported legislation or is supporting legislation that can negatively affect active and retired Feds? **Visit** <http://www.congress.gov> and enter the bill number to find out. Additionally, you can visit NARFE's Legislative Action Center ((on: <http://www.narfe.org>)) to engage in active grassroots campaigns!

\* **Remember: FEDHub Will Keep NARFE Members Connected and Informed!** The FEDHub online community will launch in a few weeks. Ultimately, FEDHub will help people make real connections, learn from each other, and be a part of something bigger than themselves. Sound exciting? Would you like to be one of the first to take advantage of this amazing new experience? NARFE is looking for a few members to help them test the new online platform or post questions and comments in the community when FEDHub launches. If you're an "early adopter" and would like to help NARFE make this experience great for your fellow NARFE Members, please email NARFE at: [communitymanager@narfe.org](mailto:communitymanager@narfe.org). And keep watching **Newline and NARFE.org for more information.**

V/R-Submitted by: Edward D. Reed, Hagerstown Chapter Vice-President for Legislation -&- POC for NARFEPAC Donations.\*

**V/R-Ed Reed, Chapter-Vice-President/Legislation.\***

**Membership Report**

This is Dorothy Smith’s final Membership Report. It was sent to all Membership Chairpersons in the NARFE Maryland Federation from Ed Holland, NARFE Maryland Federation’s Membership Director.

As you may know, each fall NARFE sponsors a Membership Drive when current members can earn great rewards by recruiting active and retired federal employees to join NARFE. Recruiters will receive \$10 for each new member who joins between September 1 and December 31, 2021. (Applications must be postmarked, and calls or website joins must be received no later than December 31.) All September through December recruiters will be entered into a drawing, one time for each new member they have recruited.

**GRAND PRIZE:** A **Kindle Fire** will be awarded to a recruiter randomly selected from this pool. The Grand prize will be selected by mid-January 2022.

**MONTHLY PRIZES:** Each month a name will be selected from the pool of recruiters for a \$25 Amazon.com gift card. The pool includes an entry for every new member recruited and accumulates throughout the contest. Gift card winners will be selected at the beginning of October, November, and December. Winners of a monthly prize remain eligible for the Grand Prize as well as all monthly drawings. See <https://new.narfe.org/for-members/help-narfe-grow-and-win-cool-stuff/>.

On top of National’s recruitment drive, please know that NARFE MD recruiters will receive \$10 for each member who joins between September 1 and December 31. Be advised that we will coordinate our drive with National’s.

Should you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. (Ed Holland)

**SPECIAL RAFFLE REPORT**

The Special Raffle began in September. If you get your money and entry forms in early, you could be the lucky winner at our October meeting. Address labels on the entry forms come in handy and are quick and easy to read. Be careful and stay safe for a busy year at NARFE Hagerstown Chapter 306!

Dorothy C. Smith, Special Raffle Coordinator

**SPECIAL ANNUAL RAFFLE ENTRY**

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

**MONTHLY PRIZE \$25.00**  
Starting September 2021  
Through June 2022 (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, 2021-2022 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*

## **COVID-19 MISINFORMATION**

There are over one hundred million eligible citizens who have not or will not be vaccinated against COVID-19. Many of these people have legitimate reasons not to be vaccinated. On the other hand, many have found misinformation on social media, TV, and in newspaper articles. There are 10 prominent types of misinformation about COVID-19 vaccines as follows –

The Covid-19 Vaccines Do Not Work - Clinical trials and real-world studies proved that the vaccines are safe and effective at protecting against infections and severe symptoms.

Were Not Properly Tested or Developed - The U.S. allowed emergency use of three different vaccines after clinical trials involving tens of thousands of participants showed they were safe and effective.

Are Mandatory - Some colleges and businesses require vaccinations as a condition of entrance or employment. Businesses are not barred by health information privacy laws from asking customers about vaccinations.

Vaccines Contain Microchips for Government Tracking Us - This is not physically possible. As Dr. Paul Offit, chair of vaccinology at the University of Pennsylvania's Perelman School of Medicine pointed out: "A microchip is about 0.5 inches long. That wouldn't fit through the end of a needle."

Contain Metals and Other Problematic Ingredients - The makeup of the vaccines available in the U.S. is no secret.

Ingredient lists for the Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson shots can all be found online.

Have Caused Widespread Death and Disease - The vaccines are known to cause some temporary side effects, such as fatigue. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) wrote as of July 21 that, based on its review all information for death reports in the database, there remains no "causal link" to the vaccines.

Stunt Fertility and Disrupt Pregnancies - As CDC recently stated, "There is currently no evidence that COVID-19 vaccinations cause any problems with pregnancy, including the development of the placenta. In addition, there is no evidence that female or male fertility problems are a side effect of any vaccine."

Can "Shed" To Affect Unvaccinated People - The vaccines do not "shed" to affect unvaccinated people. In fact, that is biologically impossible. Such shedding can only occur with vaccines that use weakened forms of the virus, according to the CDC. But none of the COVID-19 shots are live-virus vaccines.

Alter Your DNA - The available vaccines use different technologies to instruct cells to build protection against the virus. According to the CDC, no genetic materials enter the part of the cell that hosts DNA.

Killed or Harmed Various Celebrities - Those claims have not been substantiated.

If you have not been vaccinated, read and listen to all you can. This is not a matter of just you - it is a matter of family, friends and your neighbors. This is about reality and survival. There have been 621,000 deaths due to the COVID

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

**HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY!!** 🎉🎉🎉

So far, this year's Birthday Group (for \$25.00 each) has three members.  
June- **Charley Ware** \*\*\*\*\* July- **Ed Reed** and **Barb Ware**.

## ELECTED OFFICERS

**President:** Patricia Nix  
patricia.l.nix@gmail.com  
1-301-824-3290

**Vice President:** Ed Reed  
1-301-739-1641 [edr3vigil@yahoo.com](mailto:edr3vigil@yahoo.com)

**Secretary:** Barb Ware  
[barbware44@myactv.net](mailto:barbware44@myactv.net)  
1-301-331-2605

**Treasurer:** Pandi Reed  
1-301-739-1641

## Committee and Chairpersons

**Service Officer:** Thomas Brudenell  
1-301-432-4815 [lynntom@myactv.net](mailto:lynntom@myactv.net)

**Membership Chair:** Vacant

**Public Relations Chair:** Joyce Chestnut  
301-739-4262 [j.chest@hotmail.com](mailto:j.chest@hotmail.com)

**NARFE/PAC Rep/Chair:** Vacant

**Legislation:** Ed Reed

**Alzheimer's Co-Chairs:** Charley & Barb Ware  
1-301-331-2325 [warehouse8460@gmail.com](mailto:warehouse8460@gmail.com)  
1-301-331-2605 [barbware44@myactv.net](mailto:barbware44@myactv.net)

**Chaplin:** Randy Burns  
1-301-432-7255

**Sunshine Lady:** Vacant

**Newsletter Editor:** Dorothy Buhrman  
1-301-241-3628 [dotm16509@gmail.com](mailto:dotm16509@gmail.com)

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PHARMACY

**Brian M. Hose, PharmD**  
Owner / CEO

17316 Shepherdstown Pike  
Sharpshurg, MD 21782  
p: 301.432.7223 or 800.354.0478  
f: 301.432.4423  
e: [sharpshurgx@comcast.net](mailto:sharpshurgx@comcast.net) [www.sharpshurgpharmacy.com](http://www.sharpshurgpharmacy.com)





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Last Saved By: Dorothy Buhrman  
Total Editing Time: 7 Minutes  
Last Printed On: 9/25/2021 11:02:00 AM  
As of Last Complete Printing  
Number of Pages: 7  
Number of Words: 2,997 (approx.)  
Number of Characters: 17,089 (approx.)