



SPRING 2022 NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



DR. SUDHA HALEY

As we start to meet more often in person, we will miss seeing many of our colleagues who have transitioned on. With sad hearts, we bid them farewell, including our longtime and steadfast District 6 Congressional District Leader **David Richman** who provided valuable legislative support to both the Federal Legislative Committee and the State Legislative Committee.

Our February virtual meeting for Federation Board members, Federation Officers, and members, was a resounding success. Prestigious Champion Lawmaker Speakers and Trainer shared their wisdom and legislative accomplishments with us. You can view the entire program at your leisure. **Senator Chris Van Hollen**, with whom I share some precious memories of the American school in India, remarked on how the Administration has restored many lost federal workforce benefits. He continues to vigorously sponsor and support NARFE's legislative priorities. The star-studded program continued with another Champion, **Senator Ben Cardin**. He too, assiduously and continuously, has written and reinforced legislation that aids NARFE's federal employees and retirees. **State Senate President William Ferguson** explained the status of current legislation in the General Assembly, which will have profound and direct impact on us. Our State Legislative Committee (SLC) leaders, **Paul Schwartz** and **Bob Doyle**, assisted by **Dr. Bob Goldberg**, have continually presented testimony in Annapolis, on our behalf.

For Training, we were thrilled to have AARP MD's Director of Advocacy **Tammy Bresnahan** present her outstanding session on "How to Advocate in a Pandemic." She noted some of the major legislative issues on which AARP MD and NARFE collaborate and advocate. We continue collaboration with several coalition partners who help make us visible and relevant to our Lawmakers. Through the diligence of our 2nd Vice President **Edward Holland** and SLC Chair **Paul Schwartz**, we added the Maryland Chamber of Commerce. They would be most helpful in supporting legislation of tax cuts for Seniors in Maryland.

We continue to accept Federation members interested in joining our NARFE Corps of Volunteers. As mentioned earlier, our first Agency in which to volunteer, is the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA). You can commit to whatever time you feel comfortable to volunteer in a USDVA facility nearest you. We will help coordinate your vetting, training and other essential initial requirements.

I remain committed to meeting with our Chapters, in person or virtually, often accompanied by our Executive Associate to the Federation President, **Dr. Gybrilla Ballard-Blakes**. Together, we Spotlight your members, provide vital Federation and Headquarters' information, and listen to your insights on our Federation's programs. We truly appreciate all your invitations and will attend your in-person or virtual Chapter meetings, throughout the rest of this year. Please avail yourself of our Federation's Zoom Account, through our Director **Howard (Flash) Gordon**, especially if you have not convened more frequent Chapter meetings. There is no charge to you for this service, but you will have to supply your own host for this Zoom availability, under Flash's guidance. Several years ago, we conducted outstanding Forums for Candidates for Governor, Comptroller and Congress. We plan to again organize our Federation's Forums, after the Maryland Primaries. They will be broadcast statewide.

Speaking of candidates, we have our very own eminent candidate who has declared for NARFE National President. He is our beloved past President and current Region II Vice President, **Bishop Dr. Gary Roundtree Sr.** His National representation includes Strategic Planning Committee; National Audit Chair, and Compliance Officer, among many others. He works tirelessly on Advocacy, and relentlessly on Membership Recruitment, Retention and Reinstatement Plans. His career demonstrates his long commitment to public service, and deep dedication to each member of NARFE. His robust leadership and timeless wisdom is legendary. He understands the scope of the challenges NARFE is facing as an organization. He has provided us with a wealth of evidence that he would determinedly work to make our National NARFE shine, as he has done with our Maryland Federation and our Region. He has shaped National policy in his responsibilities on NARFE's National Board. It is imperative that we select a Champion like Dr. Gary who will uphold and sustain NARFE Chapters. He has brilliantly served in every official capacity from the Chapter to the Region level. He has mastered emerging trends, developments and technologies. He will be the most effective National NARFE voice for our future, representing us on Capitol Hill, and across our country and territories. I fully support **Bishop Dr. Gary Roundtree Sr.**'s efforts to be our next NARFE National President.

I leave you with this message from our U.S. President, "This is our moment to meet and overcome the challenges of our time!" We look forward to meeting you in person, at our May 2 and 3 Mini-Conference in Bowie, to strategize on overcoming our Challenges. Our remarkable Federation Secretary Patricia Farmer has already sent you all the registration information.

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LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR REPORT



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

Since NARFE's founding in 1921, the Association's mission has been to defend and advance the earned pay and benefits of America's civil servants.

Today, NARFE's team of professional lobbyists continue to work tirelessly on behalf of the federal community. Supported by grassroots activists, NARFE is a leading voice in Washington, D.C. and across the country.

NARFE's National Legislative Program is advanced in Congress by a team of registered lobbyists backed by an informed network of grassroots activists in every state and congressional district, as well as a member supported Political Action Committee (NARFE-PAC).

Advocacy Update

The Public Servants Protection and Fairness Act, H.R. 2337, is a bill to reform the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). The WEP unfairly reduces the Social Security benefits of local, state, and federal retirees who worked in Social Security-covered employment (e.g., private sector jobs) and who also receive a government annuity from their non-Social Security covered government employment. This bill needs your elected Representative to co-sponsor if they have not yet signed on.

OPM Seeks Nomination for Presidential Rank

On February 22, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), announced that it is accepting agency nominations for the 2022 Presidential Rank Awards (PRAs).

Senate Passes CR, Shut Down Narrowly Avoided

On February 17, the Senate passed, and Biden signed, a CR (Continuing Resolution) granting Congress until March 11 to pass fiscal year 2022 appropriation.

House Passes CR, Governing Funding Debate Continues

On February 8, the House of Representatives passed a Continuing Resolution to give Congress a few extra weeks to pass fiscal year 2022 appropriation.

Postal Service Reform Act of 2022 Passes House with Bipartisan Support

On February 8, the House of Representatives voted on long-sought-after postal reform, passing the NARFE supported version of the Postal Service Reform Act 2022, H.R. 3076, with strong bipartisan support, 342-92

Postal Reform Bill Amended to Address NARFE's Concerns, Set for House Vote

The House of Representatives is scheduled to consider an amended version of the Postal Service Reform Act of 2022, H.R. 3076. The impact of the bill on the earned health benefits of all federal employees and retirees, and especially for postal retirees.

Senate Committee Advances Bipartisan Legislation, Nominee to Senate

On February 2, the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs favorably reported two of NARFE's endorsed bills to the Full Senate - Honoring Civil Servants Killed in the Line of Duty Act, S. 3487, and Chance to Compete Act, S. 3423.

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Edward Holland
2nd Vice President
hollandnmd@aol.com

During the February 7, 2022 Board Meeting, the 2022 NARFE MD budget proposed by Treasurer Stuart Sklamm was approved by the Board. This was my first budget as the NARFE MD Budget Officer and I want to thank Stu Sklamm for walking me through the process. In mid-February, as a NARFE MD representative, I joined the AARP MD Veterans Volunteers – in which we discussed the best way to serve our veterans. Our first focus meeting will be on March 4. Recently, at the urging of Montford Point Marines of America – Maryland, Charles County Delegate Dr. Edith Patterson sponsored HB548 – Montford Point Marines Commemoration Day. A reminder that the Montford Point Marines of America – Maryland is a legislative partner and our “in” into the Maryland Military Coalition.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE (FLC) REPORT



Edward Holland

Chair, NARFE/MD Federal Legislative Committee

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As Federal Legislative Chair, I will work with Senatorial Leaders, Congressional District Leaders, and chapter legislative chairs to make sure they have the resources necessary to be successful. The goal will be to develop a strong connection between the FLC Chair and the SLs/CDLs. Unlike some of our positions, the FLC Chair's responsibilities can be found in a NARFE National guide. In addition, I have been made a NARFE-PAC 'fundraiser event' approval official. You will be pleased to know that we have a robust budget.

Any questions about the legislative process or how to join the Federal Legislative Committee, feel free to contact us at (301) 848-3476 or hollandnmd@aol.com / cet1933@gmail.com (Chuck Thomas).

STATE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE (SLC) REPORT



Paul Schwartz

State Legislative Committee Chair

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Remember the old saying, "The more things change, the more they stay the same?" Well, when it comes to budget surpluses, elimination of middle-class tax deductions, and the return of at least some of the tax revenue from those eliminated tax deductions back to the taxpayers from whence it came AND on which the surplus was built, the saying, "The more things stay the same, the less likely it is we will see any change...in Annapolis, anyway" unless YOU raise your voices.

The Maryland Treasury recently announced it has a \$2.5 billion surplus. State Comptroller and gubernatorial candidate Peter Franchot has been consistent in his position that the surplus should be placed in a rainy-day fund. Clearly, some of it should, but not all of it, since much of that surplus was the direct result of the elimination of or lowering of middle-class tax deductions as a direct result of the Trump tax plan of 2017.

If you feel any of that surplus, a.k.a. windfall to the state Treasury, should be returned to the taxpayers to ease their tax burden, then you must raise your voices. If you think it is important to make Maryland a more tax friendly state in which to retire, then you need to raise your voices.

The following article was prepared by Chapter 1892 President **Sarah Richards** for the chapter newsletter and captures so well what you need to fully understand about this issue that hits your pocketbook so directly and, as well, impacts the Maryland economy. Accordingly, I am taking the liberty of reissuing it for you here:

“One goal of NARFE Maryland is to reduce the tax burden on seniors living on retirement income. Unfortunately, Maryland has one of the highest costs of living in the nation, discouraging “aging in place” and encouraging migration to senior friendly states. Nine states do not have any state income tax, and 14 states exempt all or part of Federal pensions from state and local taxes. Some states actively recruit seniors with tax incentives, because they recognize the value of seniors as economic engines for job and revenue generation. Maryland has experienced larger-than-average population losses among seniors. Did you know that:

- A senior who migrates from Maryland pays no taxes in Maryland and no longer contributes to its economy, but for every senior that moves into Maryland, one-half of a job is supported and over \$85,800 in new income per household is created; plus \$13,200 in state and local tax revenues and more are generated.
- Federal grants are made through block grant programs in which each state receives a set amount of money from the federal government. The block grants can be set based on per capita or on the needs of the state. This includes SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) and Medicaid. Senior migration affects the value of these federal grants.
- The number of representatives in Congress depends on population, and the loss of seniors can affect this number.
- Seniors do not have children in school, lowering per capita school costs.
- Seniors are a major source of volunteer efforts.
- Seniors vote at a very high rate. NARFE is working to eliminate or significantly reduce taxes on all sources of retirement income, allowing Maryland to aggressively compete with other states.”

The message to you: Raise your voices with your elected representatives. If you don't, who will? That is what we, at the State Legislation Committee, are doing as we have scheduled to meet with Governor Hogan's State Legislation Officer, Keiffer Mitchell, on December 15 to discuss legislation to address these very issues. Wish us luck.

MDNARFE-PAC REPORT



Bob Doyle

MDNARFE-PAC Coordinator

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As you all know, the MDNARFE-PAC, through the Federation's State Legislative Committee (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.

For this current 2022 Maryland General Assembly session, members of the SLC attended fundraisers for twelve members of the Senate and House. These members included: **Speaker Adrienne Jones**, **Senator Mary Beth Carozza** (R-Dist. 28 Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester Counties), **Delegate Bonnie Cullison** (D-Dist. 19 Montgomery County), **Senator Sarah Elfreth** (D-Dist. 30 Anne Arundel County), **Delegate Dana Jones** (D-Dist. 30 Anne Arundel County), **Delegate Eric Luedtke** (D-Dist. 14 Montgomery County), **Delegate Pamela Queen** (D-Dist. 14 Montgomery County), **Delegate Vaughn Stewart** (D-Dist. 19 Montgomery County), **Senator Charles E. Sydnor III**, (D-Dist. 44 Baltimore City & Baltimore County) and **Senator Craig Zucker** (D-Dist. 14 Montgomery). At these fundraisers, our attendees have the opportunity to talk with the Delegate or Senator about the SLC legislative program. Usually other members of the Maryland House and Senate attend their colleague's fundraiser, so we also get a chance to talk with them.

For these fundraisers, our first aim is to engage with members who serve on the Committees that handle the tax credit and tax-relief bills we work for, which are the Senate Budget and Tax Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee. We do, however, reach out to other Members not on these Committees to garner support as widespread as possible for our goals.

Almost without exception, it is members of the SLC who attend these fundraisers. Although the current SLC members are in Chapters, which cover several legislative districts, there are many districts not covered. In earlier reports I prepared for our Newsletter, I have noted our desire for 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. The response we hear is largely "crickets." (If you don't know what this means, ask one of your grandchildren.) Additionally, there are many Chapters that do not have a member on the SLC, and in fact do not even have a State Legislative Chair or contact person. The SLC, with the help of MDNARFE-PAC funding, will continue to do our work, but the lack of support or interest from many of our Chapters is discouraging, to say the least.

I again ask all Chapters that 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. Because for the indefinite future the SLC will be meeting by Zoom; it is an ideal time for all Chapters to participate because there are no travel issues.

Finally, regarding fundraising for the PAC, our major fundraising traditionally has occurred at the Federation meetings held in Bowie, and, of course, we will be back in Bowie soon. Because many of your Chapter members will not be in Bowie, 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 –MD NARFE-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.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT PLUS



Edward Holland

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**

Membership Director:

In querying NARFE National's system, we have 5,699 Chapter members and 5,367 National members for a total of 11,066 members in Maryland.

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 are designed to help them save time, money

and hassle. There are discounts, deals and special rates on an ever-growing list of benefits on travel, health, senior housing, moving, Telecom services and more.

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

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. At the November 15, 2021 Executive Committee meeting it was announced that we will conduct Gubernatorial, Comptroller and Congressional candidate forums. The filing deadline is March 22, 2022 (Editor's Note: **See page 16 for filing date deadline change.**) Be advised that Dr. Sudha Haley has formed a NARFE MD Forum Planning Committee: **Dr. Haley**, Co-Chair, **Ed Holland**, Co-Chair, **Dr. Gary Roundtree Sr.**, **Stuart Sklamm**, **Dr. Gigi Blakes**, **Paul Schwartz**, **Karen Kinter** and **Derrick Terry**.

At the February 7, 2022 Board Meeting, SLC Chair **Paul Schwartz** and I recommended that NARFE MD present a resolution to NARFE National allowing for non-partisan endorsement of candidates. The rationale is that other like-minded organizations that make contributions to candidates that support our issues also endorse those candidates. It is as if we are intentionally tying one hand behind our backs. The motion passed.

For our upcoming May 2-3, 2022 Mini-Conference, we have formally invited: **Majority Leader Steny Hoyer**, **U.S. Representative C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger**, **Governor Lawrence Hogan**, and **Maryland Speaker Adrienne Jones**. **CDL #8 Kathy Schwab** is in the process of contacting U.S Representative **Jamie Raskin**.

Feel free to contact us at 301-848-3476 / hollandnmd@aol.com or rkkpkint@comcast.net (Karen Kinter) or terrydn@gmail.com (Derrick Terry).

BREAKING NEWS

U.S. Representative Jamie Raskin has confirmed his attendance as our luncheon speaker on May 2.

Public Relations Director:



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. I recently received 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 001-2022. 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 a press service, 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 (Karen Kinter).

NARFE MD Representative to MD/DC Alliance for Retired Americans:

As a reminder, the connection between NARFE MD and MD/DC ARA is that we both advocate for retirees. At the November 17, 2021 meeting, the Alliance held a virtual Convention with election of officers. All officers were re-elected to their position. So, I remain your Vice President-Affiliate, NARFE. Unfortunately, at the February 16, 2022 Alliance meeting, both President Susan Flashman and Vice President Richard Bissell resigned from their positions. Not having key leadership in these positions could jeopardize the ongoing ARA National initiatives to repeal WEP/GPO with strong MD/DC ARA support due to our proximity to Capitol Hill. How's the search coming for replacements? Not good, as yours truly was asked to consider stepping into one of the positions.

HAPPY SAINT PATRICK'S DAY!



Stay safe, **Edward Holland**

TREASURER'S REPORT



Stuart Sklamm, Treasurer srsklamm@msn.com

NARFE MARYLAND FEDERATION FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF FEBRUARY 28, 2022

The Bank of America savings account balance as of 2/28/22 was \$107,404.25 and the Bank of America checking account balance as of 2/28/22 was \$6,187.05. We also have a \$10,000 certificate of deposit with Sandy Spring Bank. NOTE: A \$75 vendor fee recorded under the Feb. 2022 Board meeting was attributable to Oct. 2021 Board meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR PERIOD COVERING 1/1/2022 – 2/28/2022

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT BUDGETED	ACTUAL AMOUNT	DIFFERENCE (+OR-)
INCOME			
Chapter Per Capita Tax	\$ 3,000	\$ 929	\$2,071
February Board Meeting	500	350	150
Interest on Savings Account and CD	50	6	44
Mini-Conference	500		500
NARFE National 10% Remittance	40,000	6,930	33,070
October Board Meeting	500		500
TOTAL	\$44,550	\$ 8,215	\$36,335
EXPENSES			
Administration	\$ 7,500	\$ 415	\$ 7,085
Biennial Conference 2023	4,500		4,500
Chapter Assistance	1,000		1,000
February Board Meeting	5,000	500	4,500
Federation Executive Committee	1,000		1,000
Federal Legislative Committee	3,000		3,000
Federation Presidents Meeting	12,000		12,000
Membership – 2 nd VP	3,800		3,800
Mini-Conference	5,000		5,000
Newsletter	4,500	571	3,929
October Board Meeting	5,000		5,000
Program Director	3,200	769	2,431
State Legislative Committee	2,500	112	2,388
United Seniors of Maryland	500		500
Website and ZOOM	500	114	386
TOTAL	\$59,000	\$ 2,481	\$56,519
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	-\$14,450	\$5,734	-\$20,184

REGION II VICE PRESIDENT REPORT



GARY ROUNDTREE SR., PH.D.

VICE PRESIDENT REGION II

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Greetings my fellow NARFE Family and Members. May I begin with a wonderful quote from the late Henry Ford. "Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success. Don't find fault, find a remedy. Failure is simply the opportunity to begin again, this time more intelligently. Whether you think you can, or you think you can't you're right."

During the last five months, the NARFE National Executive Board (NEB) has held two board meetings to address some issues and matters of concern, to ensure NARFE stability, structures, operations, and progress in building better products, services, and better lives for our members.

In November 2021, the NEB met by Zoom to tackle the agenda items listed here: 2022 Operating Budget, Association Management System (AMS) - Protech, NARFE Headquarters Building, Supplemental Funds Definition to Policy Manual, Financial Accountability of Federations and Chapters, RVP Handbook, Committee Charters – such as Bylaws, Strategic Planning, Ballot Oversight.

Other items on the 3-day agenda were FEDHub Update and Demo, Non-Dues Revenue Committee Report, Strategic Planning Committee Report, Quarter 3 2021 Operating Plan Update, Succession Planning, Number of Regions and RVPs, Released Bylaws and Standing Rule Amendments for posting on NARFE Website, Balloting and Voting.

In March 2022, the NEB met for another meeting to discuss these agenda items: FEDHub Report, FEDHub Use for Campaigns, Bylaws Committee Update, NEB Support to Amend Bylaws for Military Members, Amend Articles of Incorporation to Remove Civilian, Allowing Uniform Members, Ballot Oversight Committee, AMS Access Changes, Email System Operating Plan 2022, FEDcon22 Report, Configuration Advisory Board (CAB) Report, Membership Count Discrepancies, Building Committee Report, Strategic Planning Committee Report, Advocacy (issues, legislation Update) Statehood for DC, Federation Mergers and Closures, Accountability of Chapters/Federations (staffing, audit/finance) and Newly Elected Board Members (NEB) Orientation.

As I draw my article to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Maryland Federation and members of the other Federations in Region II and announce that I have nominated members from all five federations to serve on National Committees and National President Ken Thomas has appointed these Region II Members. We are the only region that has a member serve on a national committee from all five of our federations. Congratulations Region II!

Region II members on National Committees: **National Alzheimer's Committee - Kathy Siggins, MD; National Configuration Advisory Committee (CAB) - Howard Gordon, MD; National Non-Dues Revenue Committee – Randy Clark, DC; National Strategic Planning Committee - NJ President John Szphulsky; National Ballot Oversight Committee - Vinnie Warr, DE; National Advocacy Committee - Past PA President Larry Palecek; National Bylaws Committee - Larry Walton, MD; and National Building Committee- Ed Reed, MD**

Region II Membership Strategic Planning Committee Members: **RVP II Dr. Gary Roundtree Sr., Chair; Joan Larkin, PA; Michael Ryan, NJ; Ann Solkvosky, DC; Edward Holland, MD; President Vinnie Warr, DE; and Larry Walton, MD.**



Patricia Farmer, Secretary

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SECRETARY'S REPORT

As the NARFE/MD representative to the Maryland Gerontological Association and its Admin Vice President, I want to let you know that we are working to revive the organization. COVID-19 has taken a toll on MGA. Our President Ted Gross is stepping down and the remaining officers are working to keep it going. We did manage to partner with the Aging Affinity Network to have a virtual annual conference last June and a few forums on aging since then. As soon as we have a new venue to offer you, I will make sure I provide the information in the Federation Newsletter.

Many of you may not know that Steve Gurney who has hosted our virtual Board Meetings during COVID-19, is the founder and director of the Positive Aging Community and offers online webinars on a myriad of topics, such as Early-Stage Alzheimer's Challenges, Innovations & Solutions + Memory Care Resource Fair; and Live & interactive discussion with the Author of AGEISM UNMASKED. Some of the upcoming events in April: Activity Brings Purpose 04/06/2022; Thriving with Diabetes 04/06/2022; Live and Interactive-Discussion on Parkinson's and Movement Disorders 04/08/2022; Lifting the Spirit of the Caregiver. If you are interested, contact Steve Gurney, Cell/Text 703-966-6182 steve@proaging.com, and ask him to put you on his mailing list for upcoming sessions.

I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation for the Get-Well Wishes, Cards and Prayers I received from officers, chapters and individual members. I finally had the surgery I needed on Feb. 7. The surgery was successful and the best thing is that I don't have to have any follow-on chemo or radiation. I am really blessed. I still have a hip replacement surgery ahead of me but want to make sure I am fully recovered from the last surgery.

It seems like we just had the February Board meeting and now preparations are underway for the May Mini-Conference. The official Call letter has been sent out and I hope our Chapter Presidents are busy encouraging their members to attend in person on May 2 and 3 at the Bowie Comfort Inn. I hope to be able to attend and see many of you there. I wish you all a very happy spring and summer. Stay safe and healthy.

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

ALZHEIMER'S REPORT



Virginia Bender

MD Federation Alzheimer's Coordinator

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Alzheimer's and Dementia

As of the end of February, the Maryland Federation chapters have raised \$3,170. This is a great way to start 2022. Thank you all for your support in the fight to end Alzheimer's. Please continue to donate throughout the year.

Registration has begun for the Walk to End Alzheimer's, so register or join a group in your local area. Don't forget about The Longest Day campaign on June 21, 2022. These are the largest fundraising campaigns to fight this disease. The Website is www.alz.org to sign up.

Facts and Figures

- One in three seniors dies with Alzheimer's or another dementia.
- More than six million Americans are living with Alzheimer's or other dementias.
- Over 11 million people provide unpaid care for people with Alzheimer's or other dementias.
- As Alzheimer's progresses, your role as a caregiver changes. Learn what to expect and how to prepare. Go to www.alz.org/care for more information

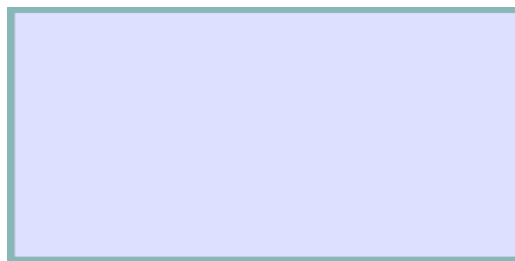
Medicare and Aduhelm

Medicare will cover the drug only for beneficiaries enrolled in a clinical trial approved by CMS or supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The price has been set at **\$28,200 per year** — before accounting for the costs of determining eligibility, monitoring, treating side effects, and drug administration. Aduhelm is not a curative therapy and patients could take the drug for multiple years.

The Greater Maryland Chapter Alzheimer's Association provides support groups, free education programs and online services. For more information specific to Maryland go to www.alz.org/maryland.



Eleanor Kaul
*Coordinator, Federal Employee and
Education Assistance – Scholarships and
Disaster Fund*
eekaul@comcast.net 410-896-4354



The NARFE-FEEA Scholarship Program is open to high school seniors only. The deadline to apply is March 25, 2022; winners will be notified in August 2022. To apply, go to scholarship@narfe.org.

The FEEA Raffle at the Conference in 2019 raised \$600 - the largest since 2015! Half the money went to NARFE FEEA Scholarship and the other half divided between two winners who won \$150 each! There will be a FEEA raffle at the May 2-3, 2022, Mini-Conference. These are member funds not dues money.

There are two other separate FEEA funds. The Emergency Fund to help prevent debit spiral for federal employees. The loan ceiling is \$1,500, with FEEA determining the exact amount. Although these are no-interest loans, loans are generally repaid within ten months. Go to feea.org/emergency for more information.

The Disaster Relief Fund is to aid those returning home after a major natural disaster. The upper limit is \$500; FEEA determines the exact amount. These funds do NOT need to be repaid. Go to [feea.org/disaster relief](http://feea.org/disaster%20relief).

FEEA is the only independent, national charity for federal employees and by federal employees. All FEEA's programs are made possible by our generous individuals and organizational sponsors who donate directly and pledge to CFC#11185 each year.

To donate, go to www.feea.org/givenarfe or mail a check payable to NARFE-FEEA Fund, indicating to which fund you want to donate and mail it to 1641 Prince Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. See the March *narfe* magazine page 41 for donation forms.

What will I be voting for in 2022?

Governor/Lieutenant Governor
Comptroller
Attorney General
U.S. Senator
Representatives in Congress (all eight districts)
State Senate/House of Delegates
Judges of the Circuit Courts County and city offices

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS REPORT



Steve Groom

Sergeant-at-Arms

410-741-1750 steveagroom@aol.com

Information for those planning to attend the NARFE Maryland Federation meeting in May:

- **Masking** - All NARFE members attending the May meeting in Bowie are expected to follow the updated guidance from the CDC: the use of masks/face coverings is now voluntary for vaccinated individuals, while unvaccinated persons must continue to wear a mask or face covering compliant with CDC guidelines. Continued use of masks by vaccinated individuals is voluntary.
- **Special dietary needs** – Any attendee with special dietary needs should have their Chapter President include that information on the chapter registration form when signing up to attend.
- **Late Arrivals/Early Departure** – In order not to disrupt the meeting, any attendee who arrives after the start of the program or who needs to leave prior to its conclusion, is asked to be respectful of others and do so as quietly as possible.
- **Respect our Speakers** – Attendees are asked to be respectful during the meeting and to not hold side conversations during the sessions.
- **Room temperature** – It is sometimes challenging for the meeting space to keep the room at the most comfortable temperature. If you have concerns about the temperature in the room, please speak to one of the Sergeants-at-Arms who will work with the hotel staff to adjust the temperature.

BREAKING NEWS – DATE CHANGES FOR MARYLAND ELECTIONS

- **Candidate filing deadline** moved from March 22 to **April 15, 2022**
- **Maryland Primary** pushed back from June 28 to **July 19, 2022**
- **General Election in Maryland** still set for **November 8, 2022**

NOTE: These changes reflect the uncertainty over political boundaries in dozens of elections across the state.

CANDIDATE STATEMENT FOR NARFE NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Gary Roundtree Sr., Ph.D.

Candidate for National President

I have a dream for NARFE: The membership decline will be slowed down through actively engaging our current members and attracting younger feds to our association. As the old saying goes, "The devil is in the details." Through a collaborative effort of NARFE leaders and our members, positive change will ensue.

I promise to be a continual source of encouragement, initiative, responsibility, and energy in serving the best interests of our members. As your National President, a person's rank and reputation in this organization will not be decided by his/her position title, the size of the job he/she does, nor by the size of his/her staff, office or budget. Let it be clear that as your National President, I will recognize the value of dissent and healthy controversy will be greeted as the hallmark of healthy change.

My NARFE Goals:

NARFE is at a crossroads where critical decisions must be made. However, like many other organizations, membership is declining. Unlike the "baby boomers," the current generations are not "joiners." My goal is to put in place an effective Recruiting, Retention, and Reinstatement (3Rs) Plan.

Our members will be asked for input because they are our most valuable asset and are "where the rubber meets the road." Members will have a valuable seat behind the wheel of NARFE. One true measure of an organization is its success in fulfilling the promise of a better life for its members. Let this be the measure of our organization.

"Our goal is not the victory of might, but the vindication of right...not peace at the expense of freedom, but both peace and freedom, here in this hemisphere, and we hope, around the world. God willing, that our goals will be achieved." (Quote from President John F. Kennedy in his Cuban Missile Crisis speech)

I will strive to continue to celebrate NARFE's legacy and for NARFE to continue to supply tireless advocacy and trusted advice.

EXPERIENCE:

NARFE National

2014-2016 – National Bylaws Committee
2019 – Federation President's Meeting Host Chair
2021 – 2023 – Strategic Planning Committee
2021 – 2023 – Audit Committee Chair
2021 – 2023 – Compliance Officer
2021 – Present – Regional II Vice President

Maryland Federation

President
1st Vice President/Legislative Director
Acting Federal Legislative Chair
State Legislative Committee

Chapter

Legislative Officer
Service Officer

Other

U.S. Marine Corps and Army Reserve Veteran Green
Belt in Lean Six Sigma
Ordained minister and a member of Department of Veterans
Affairs National Black Chaplains Association

Bio: Gary Roundtree Sr., Ph.D.

Dr. Gary Roundtree Sr. is the current Regional II Vice President, Past NARFE Maryland Federation President, and Past Host Chair of the 2019 Federation Presidents Meeting in Scottsdale, Az.

As the current Regional II Vice President, he manages and provides strategic leadership for federations by working with the executive boards and other management to set up long-range goals, strategic plans, and policies.

A NARFE Member since 2007, Dr. Roundtree Sr. has served in various chapter and federation officer positions in the Maryland Federation.

Chapter 1936 Legislative Officer, Service Officer

Maryland Federation

State Legislative Committee, Acting Federation Legislative Chair, 1st VP Legislative Director, and the Maryland Federation President.

National level 2014-2016 National Bylaws Committee; 2021-2023- Member of National Strategic Planning Committee; 2021 – 2023 NARFE Audit Chair; 2021- 2023 NEB Compliance Officer; 2021-2023 Regional II Vice President, and Member of the National Executive Board.

He is greatly involved in all of NARFE's activities and has attended many National Conventions/Conferences and State Conventions/Conferences and events within the organization. He is a veteran of the United States Marine Corps, and United States Army Reserve, and continues to collaborate with veterans and families at the Department of Veterans Affairs. His career in federal service includes the Department of Defense, and United States Postal Service, and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

While with the Department of Defense (DOD), working as a Defense Message System Specialist, he held a top-secret clearance. During his tenure with the U.S. Postal Service, he oversaw the safety and security of our nation's mail. At the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA), he serves as a Chaplain on the National Executive Board of the National Black Chaplains Association and DVA Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service Committee, ministering and providing spiritual care for patients, veterans, and families in need.

He uses Lean Six Sigma processes and their resource tools (a fact-based, data driven philosophy of improvement, that values defect prevention over defect detection). These processes drive customer and members' satisfaction line results by reducing variation, cutting waste, and improving cycle time. They promote the use of work standardization and flow, thereby, creating a competitive advantage to solve NARFE problems.

Dr. Roundtree Sr is an ordained minister, and a member of the Department of Veterans Affairs National Black Chaplains Association and its Executive Board. He is a service officer for the Department of Veterans Affairs, and various other veterans' organizations, such as the Department of Maryland Marine Corps League and Disabled American Veterans.

A published author of various articles, magazines, and newspapers, from local communities and national news entities, he has appeared on television and various radio programs for NARFE and veterans' organizations.

Dr. Roundtree is a current Member of the Council of Former Federal Executives & Associates (COFFE), DVA Congressional Stakeholders, and a Veterans Service Officer (VSO) Member where he supports public service and enables current and former federal and local government executives and all other members of the public, who are interested, to keep abreast of major government policy and operational issues.

A native of Snow Hill, North Carolina, Dr. Roundtree Sr. is a graduate of Family Bible College Seminary & University, Hampton University, Philadelphia Bible College & Seminary, and continues his education at George Washington University (GWU), and Graduate School USA. He holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical Counseling, Doctor of Theology, Doctor of Divinity, Master of Theology, Bachelor of Theology, and Associates of Arts in Biblical Studies. He is a Master Mason with a third degree from Prince Hall Grand Lodge.

Veterans History Project- The Library of Congress Collection- Gary C Roundtree Sr.

Certifications:

Lean Six Sigma – Green Belt – George Washington University (GWU) Graduate

School USA – Auditing - Evidence and Documentation Compliance Officer

Training

Employment Discrimination for Supervisor, Employment Discrimination Basic,

Sexual Harassment and Fair Housing

NBCA Clinical Certified Member, Department of Veterans Affairs Licensed

Clinical Pastoral Counselor – Advanced

Board Certified for Group Therapy

Board Certification for Integrated Marriage and Family Therapy

U.S. Army Ambassador CRSC/TSGLI

Attorney- in- Fact- accredited with the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA), representative or agent,

Department of Maryland Marine Corps League (MCL), Disabled American Veterans (DAV), Free State Chapter

#16 Service Officer helping veterans and families with the VA Claims Process.

VOTE IN THE NARFE ELECTION OF OFFICERS!

VOTE IN THE MARYLAND PRIMARY!

VOTE IN THE GENERAL ELECTION!

Dr. Gary Roundtree Sr. Received Response from President

Dr. Gary Roundtree Sr. sent a message to President Biden on the White House website, telling him that the federal community stands ready to work with the President. Dr. Gary received the following response from President Joe Biden.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 1, 2022

Dear Gary,

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts with me. Hearing from passionate individuals like you inspires me every day, and I welcome the opportunity to respond to your letter.

Our country faces many challenges, and the road we will travel together will be one of the most difficult in our history. Despite these tough times, I have never been more optimistic for the future of America. I believe we are better positioned than any country in the world to lead in the 21st century not just by the example of our power but by the power of our example.

While we may not always agree on how to solve every issue, I pledge to be a President for all Americans. I am confident that we can work together to find common ground to make America a more just, prosperous, and secure Nation.

As we move forward to address the complex issues of our time, I encourage you to remain an active participant in helping write the next great chapter of the American story. We need your courage and dedication at this critical time, and we must meet this moment together as the United States of America. If we do that, I believe that our best days still lie ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe Biden', written over a light blue horizontal line.

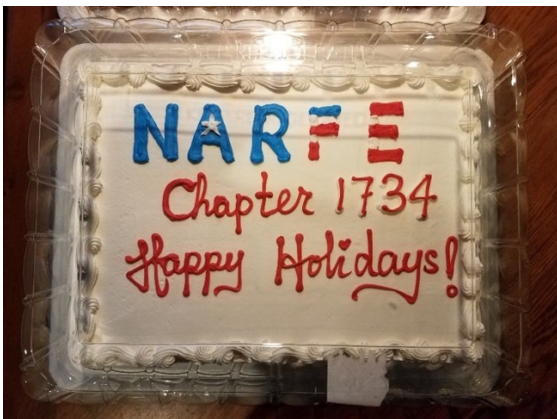
AROUND THE FEDERATION

Chapter 1734, Howard County Celebrates its 42nd Anniversary and Holiday Party

In June 2019, the Howard County Chapter of NARFE was going to celebrate its 40th anniversary, but COVID had other plans. The chapter was hoping to have a celebratory luncheon at a local restaurant with speakers from the Federation, and possibly local politicians. The celebration finally happened at our holiday party in December 2021 at the Outback Restaurant in Ellicott City. We had about 25 members in attendance, which was good because of all the uncertainty from COVID this past year. Larry Walton, Federation 1st Vice President and Legislative Director, made an official presentation of a 42-year certificate of achievement to our Co-President, Mark Wong. Larry also presented Citations for Distinguished Service for each of our Chapter Officers. Our group also made a special collection of food and money for the FISH of Howard County Food Bank. Chapter 1734 is looking forward to a great year in 2022.



1st Vice President Larry Walton presents Co-President Mark Wong with a Certificate of Achievement for his Howard County Chapter 1734's 42 years of service to NARFE, the Maryland Federation and the community.



Chapter 1734 Howard County's Anniversary & Holiday Cake



Chapter 1734 Officers pose with Larry Walton, Federation 1st VP. L-R: Secretary Patti Gillespie, Co-President Mark Wong, Treasurer Joan Cwierniewicz, Larry Walton. 1st VP Sue Neri, and 2nd VP Sam Stern.

Federation President Dr. Sudha Haley Always Working with Leaders from Both Sides of the Aisle

**Dr. Sudha Haley and Secretary of Labor Elizabeth Dole
who served in the George H. W. Bush Administration**



Dr. Sudha Haley with Steny Hoyer, House Majority Leader



**L-R: Dr. Gybrilla Ballard-Blakes, Executive Associate
to the Federation President, Senator Chris Van Hollen
and Dr. Sudha Haley**

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 Vice President	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
Immediate Past President	Dr. Gary Roundtree Sr.	443-929-7045	groundtreesr@hotmail.com
Past President	Dan McGrath	757-436-1095	mcgrathsop@aol.com
Past President	Ted Jensen	301-667-3165	grandpated1@gmail.com
Past President	Ron Bowers	410-308-0420	narfebowers@msn.com

Contacts

F

Alzheimer's Coordinator	Virginia Bender	443-210-2920	vbender21804@gmail.com
Chapter Development	Bernie Goldsborough	301-737-1315	
FEEA Coordinator	Eleanor Kaul	410-896-4354	eekaul@comcast.net
Federal Legislative Committee Chair	Edward Holland	301-848-3476	hollandnmd@aol.com
NARFE-PAC Coordinator	Larry Walton	443-831-1791	lrwalto@yahoo.com
Budget Officer	Edward Holland	301-848-3476	hollandnmd@aol.com
MDNARFE-PAC Treasurer	Bob Doyle	410-798-0079	bdoyle47@verizon.net
Program Director / PR Director	Edward Holland	301-848-3476	hollandnmd@aol.com
Equity Committee Co-Chairs	Edward Holland/Larry Walton		
Resolutions Committee Chair	Larry Lange	301-644-1875	llange3751@aol.com
Membership Director	Edward Holland	301-848-3476	hollandnmd@aol.com
State Legislation Committee Chair	Paul Schwartz	240-838-2200	pkasyanks@aol.com
Webmaster	Morse Solomon		narfemdfed@gmail.com
Social Media (Facebook/LinkedIn)	Howard Gordon	301-464-2745	flash@acm.org
Region II Vice President (DC/DE/MD/NJ/PA)	Dr. Gary Roundtree Sr.	443-929-7045	groundtreesr@yahoo.com
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.

The Maryland Federation Newsletter is published three times a year: Spring, Fall, Winter by the Maryland Federation of NARFE, P.O. Box 3527, Laurel, MD 20709 **Editor/Production Manager/Distribution:** Patricia Farmer, 301-776-4645, buttonspaf@aol.com.

*****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

Protect Your Retirement

VISIT:

<https://www.facebook.com/NARFEMDFED/> Facebook

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/narfe-md-federation> LinkedIn

Maryland Federation Website at WWW.MDNARFE.ORG

with links for Easy Browsing!

Maryland Federation of NARFE
Post Office Box 3527
Laurel, MD 20709

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

CALENDAR

April 20, 2022

May 1, 2022

May 2 and 3, 2022

July 24, 2022

Registration Deadline for Mini-Conference

Executive Committee Meeting, Bowie Comfort Inn

Mini-Conference, Bowie Comfort Inn

Article Deadline for Fall Newsletter