

E-MAIL #20



## NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES



Volume 15, Issue 6

Hagerstown MD

June 2023

### From the Desk of the President

*Happy Father's Day to all dads in the world!*

*Your sacrifice, compassion, and care deserve to be celebrated and honored every day!*

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We had a great membership meeting on May 12. Dr. Daemon Jones was our guest speaker taking about Living a Health Lifestyle. Please see Secretary Barb Ware's report for more information.

Our June guest speaker is Carol Miller Schulz, who will be speaking about genealogy.

I will be attending [LEGcon23](#). At NARFE'S premier grassroots training event, NARFE members this June will learn to advocate for NARFE'S legislative priorities and become an active participant in protecting and defending their federal benefits.

The conference will be held June 20-22, 2023, with a pre-training "Know Before You Go" session on June 14 to familiarize registrants with the procedure and instructions for their successful participation in the conference and the virtual visits with lawmakers.

After a day and a half of virtual training, the conference culminates with a virtual lobbying day, when I will talk directly to your lawmakers and/or their staff about NARFE issues. In addition to preparing for those meetings, the training will help implement bold ideas to improve your advocacy skills and become a more influential advocate by building and sustaining relationship with key decision-makers.

If any of our members have questions or suggestions, they would like me to bring up to our lawmakers, please let me know at our June membership meeting.

Maryland Governor Moore's email is [governor.mail@maryland.gov](mailto:governor.mail@maryland.gov). Your legislators may be reached at [www.mgaleg.maryland.gov](http://www.mgaleg.maryland.gov). They may also be reached using the General Assembly's number 1-800-492-7122.

Patricia Nix, President, NARFE Hagerstown Chapter 306

### Treasurer's Report

April 22, 2023	Balance	\$ 2,126.79
	Credits	\$ 543.00
	Expenses	\$ 380.00
May 24, 2023	Balance	\$ 2,289.70

P. Reed, Treasurer Chapter 306

## Secretary's Report for June 2023 Newsletter

- Twenty members and two Guest Speakers attended today's meeting. All who entered were greeted by President Pat Nix and Treasurer Pandi Reed. Each person was reminded to 'sign in', purchase a 50/50 ticket, received a Free Lunch Drawing ticket and an agenda. At each place setting was a spring napkin donated by June Himes.
- President Pat welcomed all and reminded us of the 50/50 and free lunch drawings, the Alzheimer's canister, and the chapter's Special Raffle. She thanked all who had donated food items for The Hope Ministries Center. We were encouraged to remember our server. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Chaplain Randy Burns offered the blessing. All enjoyed lunch.
- Following lunch President Pat introduced Dave Hurka. He shared that his organization, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, has been offering Health Management programs since 2011. He then introduced Dr. Daemon Jones, Naturopathic Doctor/Author/Speaker. Her presentation was Promoting a Healthy Lifestyle. Dr. Dae talked about her early life and how she learned about healthy living on the family farm. She then went on to share the "10 Keys to A Healthy Living – Tuning in to Ease Not Dis-Ease": Eat Whole Foods; Drink Water – Hydrate; Get Sleep; Connect with A Loving Community; Connect with your Body; Connect with Nature; Be Mindful; Be of Service; Be Grateful; Be Joy. NOTE: President Pat sent out an email shortly after our May 12 meeting with Dr. Dae's "10 Keys to A Healthy Living" summary attached. If you didn't receive a copy and would like one, just let me know and I'll send it to you.

## BUSINESS MEETING

### OLD BUSINESS (from President Pat's agenda)

- Volunteers needed. Chapter 306 is looking for a NARFE PAC chair and a Membership chair. Please contact me at [patricia.l.nix@gmail.com](mailto:patricia.l.nix@gmail.com) if you are interested.
- In April we started collecting breakfast items and canned goods for The Hope Center. The address is 125 N. Prospect Street, Hagerstown. They also collect items for their thrift store. The hours are Monday-Friday, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm, with a lunch break from 11:30 am – 12:00 pm.
- Election of new Maryland Federation Officers to serve two-year terms (2023-2025) has taken place. Newly elected officers are: President – Dr. Gary Roundtree; 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Ed Holland; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Vacant; Secretary – Melody Kebe; Treasurer – Stu Sklamm.

### REPORTS

- Vice President/Legislative Ed Reed (a) thanked all for coming; (b) thanked all those who had voted for him for the office of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President; (c) mentioned the Special Raffle drawing; (d) talked about LEGCon23; (e) highlighted webinars are available to all for various subjects; (f) reminded us there are still two Chapter positions needing to be filled: NARFE/PAC and Membership; (g) shared moments from the recently held Maryland Federation Biennial Conference 2023 which he and Pandi attended. See Ed's Legislative Report in the June newsletter.
- Secretary Barb Ware reported her Secretary's Report from our April meeting appeared in our May newsletter.
- Treasurer Pandi Reed started off by telling us a story about Crisco. She then announced a balance of \$2,381.79 is in our checking account. Pandi is our voting delegate at Maryland Federation and NARFE meetings. She shared some highlights from the recently held Biennial Conference 2023 held in Ocean City: (a) 75 folks attended this year's meeting; (b) NARFE has lost 61% of members since 1985 (480,000 then to 140,000 currently); (c) you can find NARFE perks mentioned in the monthly magazine; see pages 50 and 51 in the June/July 2023 issue; (d) the NARFE magazine might be online within the next 4 to 6 months online; (e) talked about the speakers. The 50/50 drawing took place next; \$63 had been collected. Bob Snyder was today's winner of \$31.50. The Free Lunch drawing was won by Mable Reynolds. June Himes had donated five Indoor Succulent plants; winners of the plants were Marty Wingerd, Jo Reynolds, Charley Ware, Margaret Hess, and Bob Snyder.
- Special Raffle Coordinator Dorothy shared that 19 members have turned in money for the 2023-2024 Special Raffle year (that begins in September) for a total of \$650 having been received. A special drawing will be held at our June meeting for all who participate in this Special Raffle. It was announced that the 2023-2024 Special Raffle year will be the 8<sup>th</sup> annual event! Dorothy thanked Dot Buhrman for her assistance for including the coupons and announcements in our monthly newsletter. Today's winner was President Pat Nix! See Dorothy's final Special Raffle report in the June newsletter. THANK YOU, DOROTHY, FOR YOUR YEARS OF COORDINATING THE SPECIAL RAFFLE!!

- Alzheimer's Co-Chairperson Charley Ware (a) distributed copies of an article titled Choosing a Doctor to Evaluate Memory and Thinking Problems; (b) announced the following Alzheimer's contributions: from Maryland in March -- \$865; from Chapter 306 in March -- \$196; from Region II between July 2022 and March 2023 -- \$6,873.21; (c) told us NARFE contributions since 2006 totaled \$15,692,263.94 with \$1,072,564.86 having been received in 2023. NOTE: \$70 was collected in today's canister!!! THANK YOU ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED!!!
- Service Officer Tom Brudenell was unable to be with us today.
- Newsletter Editor Dot Buhrman (a) announced her deadline for the June newsletter is NOON on FRIDAY, MAY 26, 2023!! (b) reminded us there will be no newsletters in July and August.

## OTHER

- President Pat distributed pins to the officers and members present of Hagerstown Chapter 306.
- Pat then shared there are 31 Distinguished Members of our chapter (those being members for 20 years). Bob Snyder was recognized for this honor and was presented a certificate and a pin. Joyce Chestnut and Bob Harshman are two other active Distinguished Members but were unable to be with us today. Pat has sent an email to all the other Distinguished Members who have email addresses letting them know about this honor.
- President Pat thanked June Himes for all the items she has donated over this past year. Pat also thanked Officers Ed Reed, Barb Ware, and Pandi Reed as well as Committee Chairpersons and/or Coordinators Dorothy Smith, Charley Ware, Tom Brudenell, Dot Buhrman, Joyce Chestnut, Randy Burns, Bob Snyder, John Hess, and Jill Thompson for serving in their respective offices. She then thanked all who brought food donations for The Hope Ministries.
- President Pat shared her current medical situation. NOTE: On behalf of Pat, I ask all of you to keep her in your thoughts and prayers during the next few months.
- Barb Ware announced there are 19 folks attending the July 12, 2023, performance of **ANNIE, THE MUSICAL** at Totem Pole Playhouse. We will enjoy lunch in the Founder's Grille at Penn National prior to heading to the 2 p.m. performance and will stop for ice cream following the play. Additional information will be provided to those attending in May or June.
- Suggestions for a location to meet for our August 11, 2023, Luncheon were still being requested. Parlor House in Waynesboro has been suggested. NOTE: Following this meeting the Fireside Restaurant was mentioned. Consensus of that group was to go the Fireside.



## Mark Your Calendars

- June 2, 2023, Hagerstown Chapter Leadership Team Meeting, at Smithsburg Park
- June 9, 2023, Hagerstown Chapter 306 Membership Meeting, gathering at 11:30 a.m., Membership Meeting, 12:00 noon, Western Sizzlin' Restaurant. Guest speaker is Carol Miller-Schultz, co-founder of "Kinship Family Heritage Research Center located at the Miller House Museum, speaking on genealogy.
- LEGCon23, June 20-22, 2023 via Zoom. Pre-training "Know before you go" session on June 14, 2023.
- July 12, 2023 – Outing to Totem Pole Playhouse to see Annie, The Musical
- August 11, 2023 – August Luncheon at the Fireside Restaurant (details forthcoming)

## NEW BUSINESS (from President Pat's agenda)

- Distinguished Members to be recognized.
- The Hope Center is requesting small (16 oz.) jars of peanut butter and jelly/jam.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Ware, Secretary

## ALZHEIMER'S Report

### NARFE'S The Longest Day 2023

The Longest Day is the day with the most light — the summer solstice. On June 21, thousands of participants from across the world come together to fight the darkness of Alzheimer's through an activity of their choice. Together, they use their creativity and passion to raise funds and awareness for the care, support and research efforts of the Alzheimer's Association.

For our NARFE Chapter 306 fundraiser this year, I encourage you to save through the month of June for your donation to The Longest Day. Make your check payable to NARFE Chapter 306; on the memo line write Alzheimer's Research/The Longest Day. Send it to me at 84 North Edgewood Drive, Hagerstown, MD 21740. If you prefer, bring it to our June 9 Membership Meeting. All checks received from Chapter 306 members will be turned over to Treasurer Pandi Reed. She will then give me a check payable to the Alzheimer's Association designated for The Longest Day. I will send our Chapter 306 check to Virginia Bender, the Maryland Federation's Alzheimer's Coordinator.

The Alzheimer's Association is a global organization, working to advance care, support and research across the world. From face-to face support to online education programs and promising worldwide research initiatives, the money we raise makes a difference in the lives of those facing Alzheimer's. Advances are being made every day. Each donation counts toward the goal of a cure.

On behalf of NARFE National and the more than six million Americans living with Alzheimer disease and their over 11 million caregivers, thank you for supporting this important cause.

Charley Ware  
Alzheimer's Co-Chair

## LEGISLATION Report

### LEGISLATION-FEDERAL:

NARFE National President William Shackelford issued the following statement after the Social Security Fairness Act was introduced in The U.S. Senate: "Thanks in no small part to the tireless advocacy efforts of NARFE'S members, the Social Security Fairness Act has been reintroduced in the Senate. \* This legislation, S. 597, introduced by Sens. Sherrod Brown, D-OH, and Susan Collins, R-ME, would fully repeal both the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO). These unfair penalties significantly reduce Social Security benefits for more than 2 million beneficiaries, drastically affecting retirees living on fixed income. \* The House version, H.R. 82, was introduced by Reps. Garret Graves, R-LA, and Abigail Spanberger, D-VA. It has already secured 180+ cosponsors, only four months into the 118th Congress. \* NARFE has pressed for repeal of these onerous penalties for decades. Bills have been introduced each Congress, often accumulating cosponsors from a majority of House members, and a substantial number of senators. With growing support in both chambers, and building off of past progress, we are moving closer to righting this wrong." \* For more information on: "How-We-Can-Support" - These (2) Congressional Bills (S. 597/WEP -&- H.R. 82/GPO) PLEASE Contact "The Advocacy Department" At NARFE-HQS - on: [advocacy@narfe.org](mailto:advocacy@narfe.org) \*\*

## LEGISLATION - STATE:

((A report from our MD NARFE Federation's State Legislative Committee/SLC Member: Ed Bice/Chapter-1747/Bowie)) \* The SLC supported and testified for (13) bills this session. Last year was an election year resulting in a new Democratic Governor and additional members of Democrats in the General Assembly. In the 2022 session the state had a large surplus due to more federal money being available resulting in some tax relief for seniors involving income tax. We did not think that there was much of a chance for senior legislation in the 2023 session due to Governor Moore's very aggressive agenda requiring a great deal of money and the fact that seniors did get some small help last year. \* The three bills that the SLC supported by written and verbal testimony that were also supported by AARP, that received positive votes by both houses and have been signed by our Governor are: SB202/HB279 - Prescription Drug Affordability Board - Upper Payment limit, SB351/HB760 - Maryland Legal Services Program-Affordable Life, Wills and Estate Planning for Seniors Program, SB665/HB774 - Assisted Living Programs-Unlicensed Programs-Resident Abuses, Exploration, and Neglect (Senator Delores Kelley, Resident of Unlicensed Programs Protection Act. \*\*

As your Chapter-0306's SLC-Member, this writer would like to paraphrase "Some of our SLC Chairman (Paul Swartz's) Recent Comments" On the "Now-Completed-2023-MD-State-Legislative-Session" -&- "How the SLC-Succeeded!" - "the NARFE MD SLC Goals were two-fold ... Pass Legislation -&- Put NARFE on the map - by getting the Key Players to Understand NARFE'S Issues = Prior to hearings on legislation -&- lay a foundation. \* In attempting all, the SLC'S biggest-hurdle was: Spending Vs. Revenue Reduction. The SLC placed their efforts on three key categories: Tax Relief, Long Term Care Insurance -&- Health Care! \* The Retirement Tax Elimination Act of 2023 failed to pass, but: NARFE got: More Exposure, More Recognition -&- More Importance among State Legislators! \* NARFE is On-The-Map in Annapolis! \* For more "Detailed-Specific" activity, of our MD Federation's (SLC) Please go to the [mdnarfe.org](http://mdnarfe.org) - website, (Top-Right-Side); hopefully, there will soon be information on any "Newly-Re-Introduced State Legislature Bills - that our (SLC) - supports on several areas of Tax-Relief that: "Only made it into Committee-Action in the 2023 Legislative Session - one, of which this writer: "Is-Most-Interested-In" - Long Term Care (LTC) Relief Act - A "Proposed" Tax Credit of \$2000 - for purchasers of LTC in 2005 or prior! \*\*

V/R-Ed Reed, Chapter-0306 V.P. - Legislation -&- NARFE-PAC P.O.C.

## Special Raffle Report June 2023

Since this is my last report for NARFE news letters, I wish to thank everyone who has helped me. It has truly been a TEAM effort! The entries for our ninth year of Special Raffle has gotten off to a good start and a reminder every one who turns in \$25 for our raffle will also get one entry in my special drawing. The prize is \$25 as my thank you to all of our participants. Don't forget that printed address labels are the easiest way to fill out the entry forms. Congratulations to Pat Nix who was our May winner of the raffle.

Thank you to Charley Ware for volunteering to take this project for the next year.

Wishing all members a wonderful summer and I hope to see all of you back again in September.

Dorothy C. Smith  
Retiring Special Raffle Coordinator

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## ANNUAL RAFFLE ENTRY

PRINT NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number (s) \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_ Or \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_

**MONTHLY PRIZE \$25.00**

Starting September 2023

Through June 2024 (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**, Memo line: 2023-2024 Annual Raffle

Forms may be returned at monthly meetings or by mail to the Coordinator.

*Charley Ware 84 N. Edgewood Dr. Hagerstown MD 21740-6502*

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## Hagerstown NARFE Chapter 306 Distinguished Members

We have 31 Distinguished Members in our Chapter and NARFE has provided Certificates and Pins for you. I will be sending these out to our members during the next few weeks

Shirley D	Aurand	Nancy C	Maus
Joanne	Barr	Glenn E	Peterson
John S	Cassell	Daniel W	Reeser
Joyce M	Chestnut	Saundra	Reeser
Erin A	Counts	Beverly	Renner
Michael K	Crist	Albert	Sayles
Marlene J	Denice	Patricia	Shadrach
Robert E	Devinney	Robert A	Shipley
Audrey R	Grimm	Robert R	Snyder
H Gerald	Guyton	Elizabeth	Spriggs
Robert	Harshman	Dianne R	Startari
Carolyn M	Hawbaker	George A	Tompkins
Elizabeth	Krell	Arline G	Walters
Donna K	Leatherman	A Ruth	Yates
Richard	Long		
Harold R	Masters		

## **Patricia Nix, President Chapter 306**

### **ELECTED OFFICERS**

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

Vice President: Ed Reed  
1-301-739-1641 edr3eagle@gmail.com

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

Treasurer: P. 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 Chair: Barb Ware  
1-301-331-2605 [barbware44@myactv.net](mailto:barbware44@myactv.net)  
1-301-331-2325 [warehouse8460@gmail.com](mailto:warehouse8460@gmail.com)

Special Raffle Coordinator  
Dorothy C. Smith 1-301-745-6355

Chaplin: Randy Burns  
1-301-432-7255

Chapter Photographer: John Hess

Sunshine Lady: Jill Thompson

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







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