

Newsletter

April 2024

(Usually Published monthly September - June)

Vol. 41, No. 8

WHERE AND WHEN

Unless otherwise noted*, our Members Meetings are held on the 4th Tuesdays at 1:00 PM at the Holiday Park Senior Center, 3950 Ferrara Dr., Silver Spring, MD 20906, 240-777-4999; ample free parking; covered parking in rear. Additionally, most meetings are captured on Zoom and recorded. (However, our April party will not have Zoom access or be recorded.)

UPCOMING MEETINGS/ACTIVITIES (Open to all)

Chapter:

- **Members Meetings:** Apr 16*, May 21*, Jun 4*
- **Newsletter Input Deadlines:** Apr 20, May 25
- **Board Meetings:** Apr 3, May 1, Jun 5

Outside Events:

- **Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board (MCCAB) –**
Thursday April 18, 2024 at 7pm
Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84643440505>
Dial In: 301-715-8592
Meeting ID: 898 2774 3604)

Our Facebook Page: NARFE Chapter 1892, Aspen Hill.
Chapter Webpage: <https://sites.google.com/view/narfe-chapter-1892/home>

President's Message

VOTE! Like it or not, we essentially have a two-party system in this country. Only the two largest parties have won a Presidential election since 1852. That means you have only two choices to make a difference when you vote. Any other option presented is useless or counterproductive.

Your impactful decisions, when it comes to voting, are binary decisions. It is either one way or the other way. If you believe a woman has the right to make personal decisions regarding her own body, you vote one way. If, on the other hand, you believe that life begins at conception and the right of the unborn over-rides the rights of the woman carrying that unborn child, you would vote the other way.

If you believe that there should be rules and regulations regarding the possession of firearms, you vote one way. If, again, on the other hand, you believe that there should be mostly unfettered access to firearms possession, you vote the other way. The choice is yours.

My point is whatever your political leanings are, VOTE on the issues because that is the best way to make the change you want.

Paul Schwartz, Co-President



March is NARFE-PAC Month Please Contribute!

NARFE'S mission is to support legislation and regulations beneficial to federal civilian employees and annuitants and to oppose those detrimental to their interests. Your contributions to the NARFE PAC will give us an opportunity to speak directly to the leadership of both parties in Congress. Please donate to NARFE-PAC at: <https://www.narfe.org/advocacy/narfe-pac/>.

Newsletter Fund

Thank you to the 74 members who contributed to our newsletter fund! If you would like to contribute, please send your checks made payable to "NARFE Chapter 1892" to:

Jim Bachmaier
Treasurer, NARFE Chapter 1892
3514 Everton St.
Silver Spring, MD 20906-4119

Membership Report

We have one new prospective member – Katherine McDowell. If you know her, please tell her that we're the fun chapter and ask her to join us!

Chapter 1892 Leadership

Co-President.....Sarah Richards
301-589-7465.....NARFEsrichards@aol.com
Co-Pres/State Leg/MD Fed. SLC Chair.....Paul Schwartz
301-260-1903.....pksyanks@aol.com
Secretary.....Myron Chace
301-330-4713
Treasurer.....Jim Bachmaier
301-642-6742
Membership.....Nina Chace
301-330-4713
USPS Mail Manager.....Merle Biggin
301-814-6047
NARFE PAC.....Bob Kammer
301-847-9820
Newsletter Editor.....Filomena Chau
301-642-6741
Sunshine.....Minnedore Green
240-839-7043
Alzheimer's.....Cathy Hobbs
301-785-6782
Historian/Past President.....Rudy Volin
301-598-2209
Special ProjectsDiane Boehr, Linda Jacks



Stained Glass Pub: Pizza Party

Celebrate Spring at our **April 16** meeting!

Where: Stained Glass Pub
12510 Layhill Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20906
301-933-4444
(Near Glenmont Subway Station – Red Line)

When: Tuesday, April 16, 2022, at 12pm to whenever.

Meet to catch up, eat pizza (or whatever food you prefer). We always have a great time at this annual event! MARK YOUR CALENDARS and join us!

If you plan to attend, please call 301-642-6742 or email Bachjchauf@verizon.net by April 11. This is so we can tell the restaurant how many are attending, so the chef and wait staff will be prepared. Just pay at the restaurant, only for what you order.

Spouses and friends welcome as well. Other NARFE chapters are invited - the more the merrier!

There are no COVID restrictions at this restaurant. However, some who are immunocompromised, but want to visit with members, will be ordering food to go and only having a drink while at the restaurant, so they can keep masks on for most of the time.

State Legislation



The 2024 State Legislation session ended April 8th. During these times when the state is facing a budget shortfall, getting tax relief for seniors was

a very steep climb. While several of the bills we supported did not make it out of committee, some did. We steadfastly supported the following bills providing testimony during committee hearings and these bills passed both houses of the state legislature:

Senate Bill 202 - Department of Aging - Caregiver Expense Grant Program - Established

This bill establishes a program in which a grant may be awarded to a family caregiver for qualified expenses paid or incurred by the caregiver if the caregiver's federal adjusted gross income is \$75,000 if filing an individual tax return or \$150,000 if filing a joint return.

House Bill 290 - Crimes - Interception of Wire, Oral, or Electronic Communications - Exception for Imminent Danger

This bill changes Maryland's current law which requires two party consent for audio recordings to be admissible in court to one party consent if there is a good faith belief that an individual is in imminent danger of becoming a victim of a crime of violence, stalking, abuse, or a protective order.

Senate Bill 373 - Criminal Law - Theft - Mail and Mail Depository Key

This bill increases the current state penalties for mail theft, to enhance the deterrence of mail crime.

House Bill 845 and Senate Bill 1105 - Individual Income Tax Credit Eligibility Awareness Campaign

These bills implement a campaign by the Comptroller's Office to identify and encourage individuals to apply for certain already existing tax credits for which they are eligible and to which they are entitled but failed, for whatever reason, to claim.

Wildlife Management and State Legislative Briefing

(Edited from Myron Chace's Written Accounts)



Wildlife Management

On March 19, Noelia Schmidt, a senior natural resources specialist with Montgomery County Parks, described Montgomery County Parks stewardship and management of natural resources. There

are 420 parks in the county (comprising 3,700 acres). The objective is to inventory, protect, manage, enhance wildlife resources on Montgomery County Parks lands and to provide for a healthy and diverse environment for the enjoyment of park patrons and future generations.

Ms. Schmidt defined wildlife management as the process of influencing interactions among and between wildlife, its habitats, people, and to balance the needs of wildlife with the needs of people. Moreover, mitigating or reducing the impact of wildlife protects resources, be they natural, cultural, or infrastructure. An additional outcome of wildlife management is meeting the concerns, expectations, and demands of park patrons, as well as county citizens in general.

Though wildlife management encompasses many activities, Noelia Schmidt focused on the nuisance wildlife management program citing some species attracting her unit's attention: American beaver, Canada geese, groundhogs, and white tail deer. She noted education about these species and mitigation actions is important. Information is available on the Montgomery Parks website (montgomeryparks.org).

Although singling out four animals prominent in her wildlife management program, Noelia Schmidt noted other species sometimes are considered a nuisance. These include denning foxes, raccoons, copperheads (the county's only venomous snake), nesting turtles, roosting bats, vultures residing in vacant buildings. Nevertheless, she encourages visiting the Montgomery Parks website, to identify and learn more about these species and how to co-exist with them.

Email: Noelia.Schmidt@MontgomeryParks.org
Phone: Office: 301-962-1341 Mobile: 240-234-0016

Legislative Update

Paul Schwartz, our co-president, and Maryland State Legislation Committee Chair gave a presentation on the status of our efforts in Annapolis. Paul pointed out that bills that would either provide tax relief for seniors or that would encourage seniors to purchase long-term care insurance did not get approval at the committee stage. The state is facing a budget shortfall, due to loss of revenue, as a result of declining population. However, a significant number of bills, for which Paul testified in support, did receive committee approval. Details of these bills are included in the state legislation report on page 2 of this newsletter.

Of particular note were his efforts regarding expanding the authority of the Prescription Drug Affordability Board to oversee pharmaceutical pricing in Maryland. This bill is expected to be passed in the next legislative session.

BIG NEWS

Our Co-Pres, Paul Schwartz Running for NARFE Region II Vice President!

Our Chapter Co-President and Maryland Federation State Legislation Chair, Paul Schwartz, announced that he is running for NARFE Region II Vice President. Please see his Candidate Statement on the NARFE website at: <https://www.narfe.org/2024-narfe-national-election/statements-of-candidates-for-regional-vice-president-2024/>.

Paul cares and thinks we can do better. He pledges to bring back transparency, integrity, growth, and success to NARFE. Vote for him!

Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday, April 16, 2024 - 12pm
Pizza Party at Stained Glass Pub

Tuesday, May 21, 2024 - 1pm
League of Women Voters on their projects, development of their voting guide, and voting issues at the Holiday Park Senior Center

Tuesday, June 4, 2024 - 12pm
Picnic - Maryland State Legislator at Wheaton Regional Park

NARFE
Aspen Hill Chapter 1892
713 Richmond Ave
Silver Spring MD 20910

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NEXT MEETING: Pizza Party! - Join us, Tuesday, April 16, at 12 PM - See Page 2.

In Memoriam

Sadly, Joseph Contrera, Gail Lipton, Robert Shimshock, June Raney, Ellen Stoney, and James Zink passed away.

Gail Rubinstein Lipton (68), a long-time Federal employee and NARFE member, passed away on February 20, 2024. A beloved wife and devoted mother, she also worked, most recently for over 20 years at Health Resources and Services Administration, as a Senior Policy Advisor, Director of Grants Policy, and Director of Policy and Shortage Designation. She was well respected and loved at work and by friends and family. She lived life to the fullest, through travel, concert going, and other adventures.

Ellen Jane Stoney (72), a long-time Federal employee and NARFE member, passed away on July 27, 2023. She had worked at the FBI in 1970 and later at NASA. An active member of St.

Mary's Baptist Church in D.C. for many years, she also loved music, attending many concerts--a favorite memory was meeting Smokey Robinson.

James Byron Zink (94), a long-time Federal employee and NARFE member, passed away on March 2, 2024. He did 4 years of ROTC and served 2 years on active duty in the U.S. Air Force and as a Reservist and retired with the rank of Major. James worked at Central Grain & Malting Co, Hecht Co., 3 years at Hazelton Research, and 29 years as a chemist at the U.S. Bureau of Mines in College Park, Maryland. He subsequently worked 6 years at the University of Maryland University College, where he taught classes on literature. He will forever be known for his keen mind, poetry, limericks, groan-inducing jokes, love of music, literature, and steadfast friendship.