



## NARFE MARYLAND FEDERATION

### Fall 2025 Newsletter

**Edward Holland** (Chapter 1972) was elected to the position of NARFE Maryland Federation President and sworn in on May 7, 2025 at the Biennial Conference in Ocean City, MD by the out-going President **Gary Roundtree, Sr., Ph.D.**

[Photo: Melinda Scott, NARFE Maryland Federation Photographer]

#### Other 2025-27 officers:

Teresa Baker (Chapter 1734), 1st Vice President  
Steven Groom, (Chapter 251), 2nd Vice President  
Melody Kebe (Chapter 1747), Secretary  
Gerald Williams (Chapter 1747), Treasurer



**EDWARD HOLLAND**  
Maryland Federation President

I appreciate the overwhelming support that has placed me in NARFE MD's top spot. Our members come from various professional backgrounds, united by a common goal: to advance our cause through strategic advocacy, collaboration, and engagement with government leaders. Each member plays a vital role in ensuring that we continue to advocate effectively for policies that support active federal employees and U.S. Government annuitants. Together, we are committed to making a lasting impact.

**My Inaugural Remarks at the 47th Biennial State Conference:**

"Hello. I am Edward Holland, your newly elected NARFE MD President. With that, I want to thank my numerous supporters for voting for me. Also, congratulations to the other elected officers who will be joining me on the Executive Committee. Thank you, Dr. Roundtree, for mentoring me at the state level and giving me many opportunities to grow with NARFE MD. In speaking with numerous chapter presidents, they ask for a return to a larger role for the Executive Board. The answer is yes!

To receive your support, I was asked: *Why do you want to serve as an officer in the Maryland Federation of NARFE?* I responded that as the 1st Vice President of the Maryland Federation, I truly enjoy the legislative process working with the Federal and State Legislative Committees. Having managed different components of NARFE MD, I have a good grasp of what it will take to ensure that NARFE MD remains solvent for years to come. My good relationships with NARFE National elected leaders and RVPII Paul Schwartz, should allow us to have the ear of NARFE National. With that, I want to work with you to be a listening and collaborative NARFE MD leader.

**For our Legislative Directorate** I've asked 1st VP Teresa Baker to do a deep dive of our ongoing operations and to make recommendations on improvements to our legislative efforts and to suggest names to appoint as FLC and State Legislative Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs, SLs, and CDLs.

**For our Membership Directorate** 2nd VP Steven Groom will be connecting with HQ, chapter presidents, members, and like-minded organizations to maintain and grow our membership.

**Secretary** Melody Kebe and I have discussed her assisting me as a sort of chief of staff, on top of her usual duties. Secretary Kebe will email the chapter presidents on chapter updates to the Directory.

**Our Immediate Past Auditor and Treasurer** Gerald Williams informed me that he intends to submit a monthly treasurer's report to the NARFE MD President.

**As to standing chairs**, after a 30-day transition period, I will assess if we are good fit for one another.

Larry Walton is a friend and will have a notable role in NARFE MD. I look forward to working for all NARFE MD members. Thank you."

---

I hope that you have had an opportunity to review the latest NARFE MD Directory. You will notice that almost all appointed positions have been filled with hard chargers. However, I'm still seeking a Program Director and Publicity Officer. A Program Director is empowered to provide me with names for possible speakers at conferences and board meetings. And of course, a Publicity Officer handles press releases.

In mid-August, I will be representing you at the 2025 Federation Presidents meeting in Indianapolis. In huddling up with fellow NARFE MD elected officers, I provided eight agenda items for the meeting.

They're listed below –

- 1) A coordinated strategy to combat the Administration's attack on active and retired Feds.
- 2) The solvency of NARFE (to include membership).
- 3) Status of moving to a 501c4.
- 4) Strengthening NARFE chapters by leadership development and streamlining the dues payment.
- 5) How best to meet the needs of active federal workers.
- 6) Encourage NARFE to improve web management so microsites can link to HQ resources reliably.
- 7) Latest NARFE National bylaws 'go-by' to ensure consistency across the Nation.
- 8) NARFE National code of conduct to hold wayward Federation and Chapter leaders accountable.

Congratulations to the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, and U.S. Marine Corps for their 250th anniversary. In addition, kudos to the Veterans of Foreign Wars for their 125th anniversary.

As usual, I welcome your feedback. Our next NARFE MD Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 7, at 9:00am, at the Bowie Comfort Inn. I hope that you will join us.

Stay safe,  
Ed Holland



Maryland Federation President Ed Holland, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Teresa Baker, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Steve Groom, and Treasurer Gerald Williams sworn in by out-going President Gary Roundtree, Sr., Ph.D. Secretary Melody Kebe was excused from the ceremony. [Photo: Melinda Scott]



## TERESA BAKER

Maryland Federation 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Legislation

### Advocacy is a Team Sport, and NARFE is Playoff-Bound

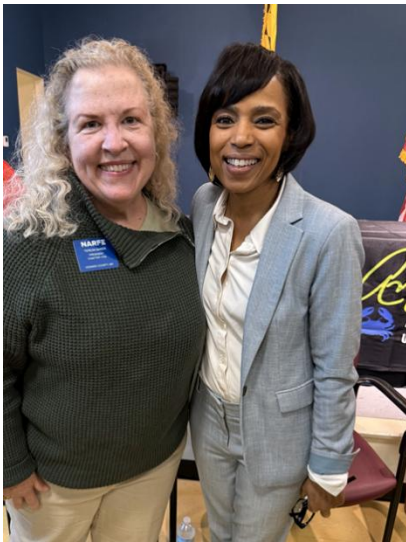
I was honored to take the oath as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President just months after NARFE's epic win repealing the Windfall Elimination Provision and Government Pension Offset. Sadly, the elimination of federal agencies, firing of thousands of federal employees, rehiring of some, on-going efforts to impose Reduction in Force—all subject to court ruling, appeals, and Congressional action—have all caused unprecedented instability for NARFE members. But we can and must stand with NARFE in the fight. NARFE's LEGcon25, our biennial grassroots advocacy training conference, wrapped up in June with more than 200 members participating in scores of virtual meetings with members of Congress and their staff. Please continue to advocate using NARFE resources. Even a small effort can make a significant impact, and the Legislative Action Center makes it easy to reach federal legislators with timely messages here: <https://www.narfe.org/advocacy/legislative-action-center/>.

### NARFE's technology makeover is well underway

Thanks to **Howard "Flash" Gordon**, our Federation's webmaster and the Region 02 Configuration Advisory Board (CAB) representative, I developed a new microsite on NARFE's website for Chapter 1734: <https://www.narfe.org/chapter1734/>. Across the nation, NARFE is working to use technology to improve member communication by (1) helping local chapters to create microsites, (2) expanding use of social media, (3) enhancing the website, and (4) leveraging the FEDHub platform. Chapter microsites post local news and updates including event calendars and meeting information, offer helpful links to resources on federal benefits and retirement, and can include photos of chapter activities. FEDHub is NARFE's official online community for active and retired employees to connect, share advice, and collaborate on federal employment and retirement topics. We will be using the FEDHub Maryland Federation Community to share essential documents and resources and to coordinate events. Join FedHub (<https://fedhub.narfe.org/home>) to connect with other NARFE members.

### NARFE-PAC gets a seat at the table

Our Political Action Committee set an ambitious goal to raise \$1.5 million in the 2025-2026 election cycle. Please contribute if you can at <https://members.narfe.org/Support-NARFE/Support-PAC>.



Teresa Baker and Sen. Angela Alsobrooks at senior forum in Annapolis



Two MD State Senators and Six MD Delegates spoke to Chapter 1734, Howard County in April 2025



Gerald Williams, Teresa, Rep. Steny Hoyer, Paul Schwartz

**PAUL K. SCHWARTZ**  
Region 02 Vice President

**Raise your voice**

Scapegoat! That is what the federal workforce has become as the current administration goes about dismantling a significant portion of that workforce via across-the-board cuts as well as attacks on benefits and employee rights. My Op-Ed in the *Baltimore Sun* on June 16th was my attempt to set the record straight. If you missed it, read it here: <https://www.baltimoresun.com/author/paul-k-schwartz>.

In sharing it, I hope to encourage as many feds as possible to raise their voices in any way they can. Remember the words of Howard Beal in the movie *Network*: “I’m as mad as hell and I’m not going to take it anymore.” Well, that is how anyone who devoted their careers to federal service should feel. That is how I feel and that is why I am using any opportunity I have to raise my voice.

**Parliamentarian nixes provision to strip civil service protections from new hires**

On a different front, some good news. The Senate Parliamentarian has ruled that provisions in HR 1, the so-called “One Big Beautiful Bill”, which would effectively strip federal employees of merit system protections and eviscerate the merit-based civil service system in effect since the 1880’s with the passage of the Pendleton Act, up until now that is, by granting broad new authority to the president to reorganize the federal government without additional congressional review and approval cannot be passed under reconciliation.

The basis of the ruling by the parliamentarian is that such a provision is a change in policy and not just an element of budget consideration and would require new legislation to change existing legislation. As such, it would require meeting the 60-vote threshold to overcome the Senate filibuster and could not be passed with a simple majority vote under reconciliation.

So, while the federal workforce community may have escaped a catastrophic disaster for now, don’t lose sight of the threat that was on the table and is always out there to resurface.



**Sen. Chris Van Hollen with Paul Schwartz** at Hoyer Bull Roast



**Paul Schwartz, Teresa Baker, Gerald Williams, Wes Moore** at Bull Roast U.S. Rep. **Glenn Ivey**



**MD Sen. Dawn Gile and Paul Schwartz** at Biennial Conference in Ocean City



**STEVE GROOM**

Maryland Federation Second Vice President, Membership

Recently, my wife (**Penny Young**, Chapter 0251) and I attended a shrimp feast at which she met a CSRS retiree who didn't belong to NARFE. She had heard about NARFE's success in overturning WEP and GPO, and we had a NARFE membership application with us. Additionally, we talked about the benefit of a free first year of chapter membership and convinced her to join our chapter and sent her a copy of our latest newsletter! Never underestimate the power of personal connection. So, be sure to always carry a membership application with you! Seriously, as a reminder, please be sure and order any membership brochures or other supplies from NARFE headquarters at least three to four weeks ahead of an event to provide enough time for the materials to arrive. Encourage your members to invite others to monthly chapter meetings and have lots of membership brochures and information on hand. Should you have any suggestions about recruitment and retention, please reach out to me.

**BOB DOYLE**Maryland Federation State Legislative Committee Chair  
Maryland PAC Treasurer and Coordinator

The Maryland Federation's State Legislative Committee (SLC) celebrated several wins in Annapolis last April. SLC supported the following bills which passed and were enacted:

- ✓ The **Protect Our Federal Workers Act (HB 1424 and SB 683)**, sponsored by **Delegate Jazz Lewis** and **Senator Nick Charles**, renames and repurposes the existing Catastrophic Event Account and the Federal Government Shutdown Employee Assistance Loan Fund to the Federal Government Employee Assistance Loan Fund. The funds may be used to provide an interest-free short-term loan to former Federal employees facing financial hardship from the closure, relocation, or mass layoff of a unit of the Federal government, or other similar circumstances.
- ✓ The **Lowering Prescription Drug Costs for All Marylanders Now Act (HB 424 and SB 357)** expands the Prescription Drug Affordability Board authority to set upper payment limits for all purchases and payor reimbursements of some prescription drugs. These bills were introduced by **Delegate Bonnie Cullison** and **Senator Dawn Gile**, both of whom are pictured elsewhere in this newsletter.
- ✓ **Defining "honorable discharge" with respect to any State program of benefits, rights, or privileges applicable to a veteran to include certain discharges (HB 699 and SB 491)** expands the definition of "honorable discharge" to include discharges other than honorable which were based on incidents relating to a diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury, or on an experience of military sexual trauma. **Delegate Nick Allen** and **Senator Dawn Gile** led these bills.
- ✓ **Public Health - Information on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Prevalence and Treatment (HB 1004 and SB 748)** led by **Delegate Ashanti Martinez** and **Senator Ben Kramer** requires the Maryland Department of Health, in partnership with the Department of Aging, and others, to incorporate information into relevant public health outreach programs administered by the Department on new treatments approved by the Food and Drug Administration for Alzheimer's Disease and related dementias. Since 1983, NARFE members have generously contributed to Alzheimer's Disease and related dementias care and research.



**VIRGINIA BENDER**  
Maryland Federation Alzheimer's Coordinator

**FDA Approved Blood Test May 16, 2025**

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the first blood test for Alzheimer's disease. The Lumipulse G pTau217/ $\beta$ -Amyloid 1-42 Plasma Ratio is for the early detection of amyloid plaques associated with Alzheimer's disease in patients aged 55 years and older exhibiting disease signs and symptoms. It measures proteins found in blood to determine the presence of amyloid plaques in the brain, reducing the need for a PET scan.

**Drugs that change disease progression**

Last July, the FDA approved two anti-amyloid antibody intravenous (IV) infusion therapies to treat early Alzheimer's disease, including people living with mild cognitive impairment or mild dementia who have confirmation of elevated beta-amyloid in the brain. Donanemab (Kisunla™) is a monthly IV infusion. Lecanemab (Leqembi®) is an IV infusion that is delivered every two weeks. There is no safety or effectiveness data on initiating treatment at earlier or later stages of the disease than were studied for either therapy.

When thinking about any treatment, it is important to have a conversation with a health care professional to determine whether it is appropriate. A doctor who is experienced in using these medications should monitor people who are taking them and provide information that can help people make informed decisions about their usage and care. For more information contact the Alzheimer's Association [ALZ.org](http://ALZ.org) or 800-272-3900.



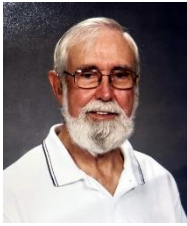
The St. Mary's Chapter 969 officers at the 2025 Maryland Federation Biennial Conference receiving the award for the highest amount raised by a local chapter in the Federation.

Chaplain **Jeanette McCants**, President **Joe Moffat**, Federation Alzheimer's Coordinator **Virginia Bender**, Region 2 Alzheimer's Coordinator **Kathy Siggins**, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President **Geneva Leon**, and Secretary **Donna Voithoffer**. [Photo: Melinda Scott]

## MARYLAND CHAPTER NEWS

### Upcoming Bowie-Crofton Chapter 1747 – September 18 Meeting

Chapter President **Melody Kebe** invites NARFE members to join Chapter 1747 at their September 18th meeting at 10:00am at the Kenhill Center, 2614 Kenhill Drive in Bowie. The Open Forum/Town Hall poses the question “**What’s on Your Mind?**” and provides an opportunity to engage with Maryland Federation Executive Committee Officers: President **Edward Holland**, 1<sup>st</sup> VP and Legislative Chair **Teresa Baker**, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP and Membership Chair **Steve Groom**, and NARFE Region 02 Vice President **Paul Schwartz**. Please let Melody know if you plan to attend.



### Chapter 1734 – Remembering Charles “Chuck” Thomas

NARFE Chapter 1734 members were saddened by the death of **Chuck Thomas** (91) in May. He served for 10 years as Chapter President and was a tenacious advocate for federal workers at the federal level and as a member of the Federation’s State Legislative Committee. In 30 years with the Department of the Army, Chuck was the Director of Personnel, in the New York field office, at Walter Reed Hospital, and at the Pentagon. He and his wife, Ginny, were married for 60 years. Information on the planned Celebration of Life is here: <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/columbia-md/charles-thomas-12385218>.

### Chapter 1892 Picnic – By Myron Chace, Secretary, Chapter 1892

Members from Aspen Hill, Western Montgomery, Wheaton/Glenmont, and White Oak chapters met at Cooperative Chapter 1892’s June pot-luck picnic at Black Hill Regional Park in Boyds by Little Seneca Lake. The chapters plan to merge soon. Their special guests, Maryland **Delegate Bonnie Cullison** and Montgomery County Councilmember **Natali Fani-González**, were introduced by Chapter Secretary **Myron Chace** and Chapter Treasurer **Jim Bachmaier**, respectively. Both elected officials described significant fiscal challenges. NARFE Region 02 Vice President **Paul Schwartz** recognized Delegate Cullison as a champion of health care for all Marylanders. Chapter President **Sarah Richards** thanked Delegate Cullison for her work, presenting a Certificate of Appreciation and a NARFE baseball cap.



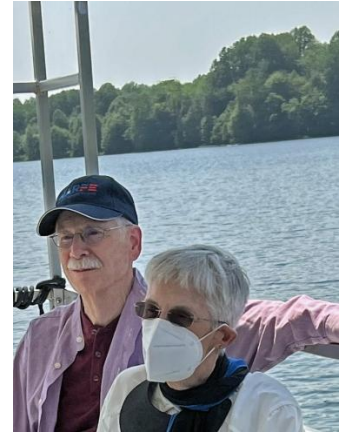
**MD Delegate Bonnie Cullison** at Chapter 1892 picnic



**Myron Chace** introducing **MoCo Councilmember Natali Fani-González** at picnic



**Natali Fani-González** with NARFE members



**Myron and Nina Chace** on Little Seneca Lake