

January 2026

(Usually Published monthly September - June)

Vol. 43, No. 4

WHERE AND WHEN

The January 27th members meeting will be held at the Bender Jewish Community Center, 6125 Montrose Rd., Rockville, MD 20852 (301-881-0100); ample free parking. Upcoming meeting dates are listed below. Any meeting dates that differ from our guidelines are marked with an asterisk (*) below. Most meetings are also Zoomed, recorded and placed on our website. More information on the January meeting, "A Casual Conversation about a Serious Topic -- Taxes" is listed on page 2, right column.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/ACTIVITIES - (Open to all)

Chapter:

- **Members Meetings** (usually on 4th Tuesdays)
Jan 27, Feb 24, Mar 24, Apr 28, May 19*, Jun 6*
- **Newsletter Input Due** (usually 2nd Wednesday of the month prior to publication date)
Jan 14, Feb 11, Mar 11, Apr 13*, May 11*
- **Board Meetings** (usually 1st Wednesdays)
Jan 8*, Feb 4, Mar 4, Apr 8*, May 6, Jun 3

Outside Events:

- **Monthly meetings of the Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Boards:** Upcounty CAB, Mid-County CAB, Western Montgomery CAB, Silver Spring CAB, and East County CAB. Check internet for meeting dates and locations.

Our Facebook Page:

NARFE Chapter 1892, Greater Montgomery County.

Chapter Webpage: NARFEchapter1892.org

President's Message

Hope—is our New Year's gift. Health, work, friendships, community, politics, family relationships, can they be better? If so, make a staged plan with work-a-rounds for those issues that have kept you from moving forward. Then, take that first purposeful step to a more productive, joyful life. You can do it!

Thank you to all the folks who attended the Winter Holidays Party. It was great to see new faces among our faithful attendees and so many people having fun. This January 27th, at our monthly meeting, we'll be discussing taxes—a timely conversation. See Page 2 for details.

A quick reminder that we need members to help with shepherding our speakers, organizing the refreshments table, editing videos, finding lost members, and more. Email me at NARFErichards@aol.com if you'd like to help.

Did you know that the U.S. independence is 250 years old on this July 4? Our Chapter theme for 2026 is "250 Years--Celebrating America's Past". Each newsletter this year will have an historical reflection reminding us of the process our forefathers went through to gain our independence. Let us honor them and their vision!

Best wishes,
Sarah

Membership Report

Welcome new members, Natalya Kramarova, Diane Lynne, David Peterman, Eric Sheinin, Steven Schleien, Anne Sit-Williams, Sandra Young and Izabella Zandberg! We are so glad you decided to be part of Chapter 1892! We have 13 new prospective members – Julie Bardo, Gerald Feldman, Sherry Fobear, Elizabeth Gage, Meka Laster, Jennifer Maloney, Theresa Reilly, Ellen Richmond, Bernadette Salyer, Nancy Solomon, Colleen Taylor, Cathy Ventrell-Monsees, and Kristina Williams. If you know them, please tell them that we are the fun chapter and ask them to join us!

**250 Years Ago – American Independence
January Reflection**

Thomas Paine published the influential pamphlet – *Common Sense* – that inspired the Founding Fathers to seek independence from Britain.

Chapter 1892 Leadership

| | |
|--|---|
| President | Sarah Richards |
| 301-589-7465..... | NARFEsrichards@aol.com |
| Secretary | Myron Chace |
| 301-330-4713 | |
| Treasurer | Jim Bachmaier |
| 301-642-6742..... | bachjchauf@verizon.net |
| | RSVPs - bachjchauf@gmail.com |
| Alzheimer's | Cathy Hobbs |
| 301-785-6782 | |
| Membership | Nina Chace |
| 301-330-4713 | |
| Newsletter Editor | Filomena Chau |
| 301-642-6741 | |
| Service Officer | Nat Cunningham |
| 301-309-2472 | |
| Special Projects | Diane Boehr, Linda Jacks and Martha O'Connor |
| Sunshine | Minnedore Green |
| 240-839-7043 | |
| USPS Mail Manager | Merle Biggin |
| 301-814-6047 | |
| Photographers | Bill Waller, Ron Shansby |
| Leadership Region II VP | Paul Schwartz |
| 240-838-2200..... | schwartzpaul02@gmail.com |
| *Region II = DE, D.C., MD, NJ, and PA | |

Let's Raise Funds for Alzheimer's Services and Research!

(Edited article by Kathy Siggins, NARFE Region II Alzheimer's Coordinator, NARFE Magazine, November 2025)

Please buy Alzheimer's theme semi-postal stamps to raise money for Alzheimer's services, care, support, and research to discover new treatments and prevention! These stamps sell for only \$0.15 more than the cost of a first-class stamp.

Your kindness will help the 127,200 Maryland residents, living with Alzheimer's and other dementias, and their 242,000 caregivers and family members.

In 2017, the U.S. Postal Service printed 500 million Alzheimer's stamps. If all of these stamps were sold, that would have raised more than \$75 million for Alzheimer's research and services! However, as of September 2025, only 12 million stamps have been sold (that's only 2.4% of the stamps printed). While the stamps already sold raised more than \$1.7 million for Alzheimer's research, it could have been so much more. Every stamp you buy will bring us closer to helping find a cure for Alzheimer's! Please, won't you help us?

A Casual Conversation about a Serious Topic -- Taxes

It's that time of the year again--planning to pay our taxes. Have questions? Join the conversation with Marilyn Scheiner, CPA, who's presented tax preparation information to the Western Montgomery Chapter for the last several years and will be speaking at our next meeting.

Join us: Tuesday, January 27, starting at 1 PM. Mark your calendars, bring your friends, ask your questions! Bring a pot-luck appetizer or dessert to share if you can, but due to dietary meeting room requirements, no meat or fish may be brought into the building. Drinks will be provided!

How to attend this free meeting:

In person, NOTE NEW LOCATION: join us at the Bender Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington, 6125 Montrose Rd., Rockville, MD 20852. Give yourself extra time to enter the building, as you must tell the desk assistant that you are attending the NARFE meeting. They will tell you the location of the meeting room.

Note: You might want to wear a mask if the virus outbreak hasn't abated by then and definitely attend via Zoom if you are ill.

Please RSVP at bachjchauf@gmail.com or call 301-589-7465 by January 25 to ensure there is space for everyone.

Online, access the meeting via Zoom. Just click the following link.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84654406850?pwd=K4PTu0RMeNxbV8bxHDFF9dGA1OQ0y1>

Meeting ID: 846 5440 6850, Passcode: 307663

Audio-only, call 301-715-8592. You may need to key in the meeting ID and passcode.

Note: Meeting will be recorded and available on the Chapter website.

The Winter Holidays Party on Dec 9th

(Edited from Myron Chace's Written Accounts)

(Photography by Bill Waller)



On December 9th, our Chapter officially marked the holiday season with good food, trivia games, door prizes and great conversation.

Forty-six attendees, including representatives from National Headquarters attended the party. Region II Vice President Paul Schwartz and a very special guest, NARFE National President William "Bill" Shackelford, were our speakers.



After lunch, President Shackelford, shown above left, reflected on the organization's past work, singling out especially last year's (January 2025) repeal of restrictions on Social Security benefits (WEP/GPO) that allowed federal retirees to receive full social security benefits and retroactively gave them such benefits from January 2024. (This achievement was the result of over 40 years of effort from NARFE and many other organizations). Responding to a question about how to advocate effectively for federal employees, President Shackelford provided guidance. Be careful to maintain non-partisanship. Think about what you are saying or writing. Offer solutions and recognize the opinion of others. Avoid anger; don't alienate.



Additionally, Regional Vice President Paul Schwartz, shown left, asked for signatures for a NARFE National bylaw change request form. The bylaw change, if enacted, would provide automatic free chapter membership to new members, increasing chapter membership.

Presentations Debrief: Supporting Federal Workforce & Fire Safety in Your Home

(Edited from Myron Chace's Written Accounts)

Presentation 1: Jessica Issoufou, Deputy Director of Workforce Services, WorkSource Montgomery (www.worksourcемontgomery.com) and Michael Covin, Fed. Career Workforce Center Director described their programs and the help they are giving to MC residents whose federal jobs have been eliminated or who have been furloughed. WorkSource Montgomery connects job seekers with employers. "Mobilize Montgomery" (www.mobilize-montgomery.com) provides a centralized information and resource hub for impacted job seekers and employers.

A component of Mobilize Montgomery, the Federal Workforce Career Center, identifies unemployment benefits, helps professionals seek new opportunities, and informs them about online platforms announcing jobs and training resources. Career coaching, resume support, targeted job matching, and leadership development are opportunities.

Presentation 2: Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service (MCFRS), Jim Resnick said that in 2024, there were 142,617 calls for assistance. Emergency medical service comprised 79% of those calls, and your speed in calling 9-1-1 can make the difference in life or death. The other 21% of calls were fires, many caused by lithium-ion batteries.

To prevent battery fires, he urged us to buy products that were tested by Underwriters Laboratories (UL listed). Use charging products provided by the device manufacturer. Charge the device only on hard surfaces and never leave it unattended when charging. Unplug the device when charging is finished. A further concern is proper battery disposal. Do not throw the batteries away in trash designated for routine collection. Take batteries to certified battery collection locations. Also, be sure to use smoke detectors. Get free smoke detector testing in Montgomery County by calling 311, or 301-279-8000.

Reaction time to a fire alarm situation, like a medical situation, is critical -- seconds should be the reaction time target.

NARFE
Greater Montgomery
County Chapter 1892
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Silver Spring MD 20910

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**NEXT MEETING: Join us, Tuesday, January 27, at 1 PM –
A Casual Conversation about a Serious Topic – Taxes.**

NARFE Referendum Update

The existing term limits for National Executive Board members are 3 terms of 2 years each, for a total of 6 years maximum. The proposed referendum would change this to 2 terms of 3 years each, for total of 6 years maximum. Voting on the referendum begins on January 26, 2026 and ends on February 24, 2026. Ballot will be posted on the NARFE website at www.narfe.org/2026-referendum.

This step will move NARFE towards a more sustainable future. This change will (a) provide consistency among all NEB elected members' term limits, (b) potentially retain continuity of NEB leadership (over a longer period, 3-year terms instead of 2-year terms), (c) potentially allow the current NEB to focus on completing projects and assignments initiated during the present term, and (d) enhance continuity and organizational

effectiveness in an era of frequent uncertainties with the federal government.

Loss of 72,000 Federal Jobs in 2025

(The Washington Post, 1/9/26, page A17)

US Bureau of Labor Statistics announced: Washington Metropolitan area lost over 72,000 Federal jobs in 2025 (District of Columbia = 24,000 jobs; Maryland = 24,900 jobs; Virginia = 23,500 jobs). Maryland lost more federal jobs than any other state.

Maryland Governor Wes Moore (D) is trying to counteract this intellectual loss, by growing the private sector and diversifying MD's economy (in life sciences, technology, aerospace, and defense).

National unemployment increased to 4.6% in November (MD = 4.2%, DC = 6.5%, VA = 3.5%).