



NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

MARYLAND FEDERATION P.O. Box 1643, Bowie, MD 20717

EDWARD HOLLAND
PRESIDENT

TERESA BAKER
1st VICE PRESIDENT
LEGISLATION

STEVE GROOM
2nd VICE PRESIDENT
MEMBERSHIP

MELODY KEBE
SECRETARY

GERALD WILLIAMS
TREASURER

DR. GARY ROUNTREE, SR.
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

DAN MCGRATH
PAST PRESIDENT

RON BOWERS
PAST PRESIDENT

TO: Federation EXCOM Officers and Past Presidents, Federation Committee Chairs/Officers, Board Members (Chapter Presidents), and Region II Vice President

FROM: Edward Holland, President

SUBJECT: Maryland Federation May 2026 Mini-Conference / Annual Meeting

DATE: February 6, 2026

Please mark your calendars to join fellow leaders and members from across the Federation at the 2026 Mini-Conference / Annual Meeting – theme “Honoring the Past, Looking Ahead.” All members are encouraged to attend!

When: Tuesday, May 5 and Wednesday, May 6, 2026

Where: The Comfort Inn and Conference Center, 4500 Crain Highway, Bowie, Maryland

For planning purposes, below is a “Tentative Agenda” for your use. Times, topics and speakers are subject to change.

TENTATIVE AGENDA

DAY 1: Tuesday, May 5, 2026

| <u>Time</u> | <u>Topic</u> | <u>Speaker / Location</u> |
|--------------------|---|--|
| 8:15-9:00am | Registration Continental Breakfast | Meeting Room Foyer Meeting Room Foyer |
| 9:00-9:15am | Call to Order Invocation Pledge of Allegiance National Anthem Roll Call | Edward Holland, President Larry Lange, Chaplain Steve Groom, 2 nd Vice President ALL Melody Kebe, Secretary |

May 5-6, 2026, Mini-Conference / Annual Meeting
TENTATIVE AGENDA (cont.)

DAY 1: Tuesday, May 5, 2026 (cont.)

| <u>Time</u> | <u>Topic</u> | <u>Speaker / Location</u> |
|-----------------|---|---|
| 9:15-10:00am | Introduction of Keynote Speaker <i>Keynote Speaker (confirmed)</i> | Edward Holland, President <i>Brooke E. Lierman Comptroller of Maryland</i> |
| 10:00-10:15am | BREAK | |
| 10:15-11:00am | Introduction of Guest Speaker <i>Guest Speaker (confirmed)</i> | Edward Holland, President <i>Cindy Blythe, NARFE National Secretary/Treasurer</i> |
| 11:00-11:15am | BREAK | |
| 11:15am-12:00pm | Introduction of Guest Speaker <i>Guest Speaker (confirmed)</i> | Teresa Baker, 1 st Vice President <i>Linda Kohn President, League of Women Voters of Maryland</i> |
| 12:15-1:00pm | LUNCH | |
| 1:00-1:45pm | President's Update Legislation Update Federal Legislative Report State Legislative Report MD NARFE/PAC Report | Edward Holland, President Teresa Baker, 1 st Vice President Teresa Baker, 1 st VP & FLC Chair Bob Doyle, SLC Chair Bob Doyle, Coordinator |
| 1:45-2:00pm | BREAK | |
| 2:00-2:45pm | Alzheimer's Report Membership Report CAB Report Region II Update | Virginia Bendor, Alzheimer's Chair Steve Groom, 2 nd VP, Mbrshp Chair Howard 'Flash' Gordon, CAB Rep Paul Schwartz, Region II VP |
| 2:45pm | Closing Remarks Benediction Adjournment | Edward Holland, President Larry Lange, Chaplain Edward Holland, President |

May 5-6, 2026, Mini-Conference / Annual Meeting
TENTATIVE AGENDA (cont.)

DAY 2: Wednesday, May 6, 2026

Congressional District 5 “Meet & Greet” with Maryland State Leaders

| <u>Time</u> | <u>Topic</u> | <u>Speaker / Location</u> |
|----------------------|---|--|
| 8:15-9:00am | Registration in Foyer Area Continental Breakfast | Meeting Room Foyer Meeting Room Foyer |
| 9:00-9:15am | Call to Order & Remarks Invocation Pledge of Allegiance National Anthem Roll Call | Edward Holland, President Larry Lange, Chaplain Steve Groom, 2 nd Vice President All Melody Kebe, Secretary |
| 9:15-10:45am | <i>Guest Speakers (to be announced)</i> | |
| 10:45-11:00am | BREAK | |
| 11:00-12:00pm | <i>Guest Speakers (to be announced)</i> | |
| 12:00pm | Closing Remarks Benediction Adjournment | Edward Holland, President Larry Lange, Chaplain Edward Holland, President |

All addressees are urged to attend the Mini-Conference / Annual Meeting. Interested Chapter officers, members, past Chapter presidents, and guests are welcome and encouraged to attend. *Guests can pay at the door but must have reservations.*

Registration Fee. The Registration Fee of \$60.00 for non-board members and guests includes Continental Breakfast, Lunch and materials/handouts).

Food & Beverage.

Continental Breakfast: Assorted breakfast pastries and muffins, yogurt, coffee, tea, decaf and assorted juices.

Lunch: To be determined.

NOTE: All members and guests who sign up for lunch on May 5th will be responsible for attending. **All Chapters will be responsible for and will be billed for any no shows.** The Federation is charged the full lunch count whether the members and guests attend or not.

Registration Form. We must advise the Comfort Inn on the number of lunch reservations and ask Chapter Presidents to **please register ALL your Chapter attendees and guests on the registration form included as a separate attachment in the Call Letter email to the May 2026 Mini- Conference / Annual Meeting.** **Email the completed registration form as soon as possible or mail the form to the Registration Team (address is on the form) in time to reach them no later than Friday, April 10, 2026.** **Cancellation without penalty is NOON, Tuesday, April 14, 2026.** If you need to cancel anyone on the list, please let the Registration Team know ASAP by calling Lillie Watson at 301-383-1597 or Rhonda Hackley at 301-335-0493 -OR- send an email to narfemd22@gmail.com.

Hotel Information. Attendees are responsible for making their own hotel reservations directly with The Comfort Inn and Conference Center, 4500 Crain Highway, Bowie, MD 20716 (301-464-0089).

Make reservations early and identify yourself as part of the “NARFE” group. Ask for the NARFE “group rate” for the dates of May 4th and May 5th. The “cut-off date” for the group rate is April 13th. The room rate includes a full hot breakfast. **To make a reservation for a sleeping room, call the hotel directly (301-464-0089), go to choicehotels.com, or call 800-258-2847.** Use the NARFE Corporation Number 00801967 and your personal Choice Privileges Number, to get the best rate. If you do not have a Choice Privileges card, you can sign up at choicehotels.com. You will need to give a personal credit card to confirm your reservation.

Policy on Reimbursement for the Maryland Federation “Mini Conference” / Annual Meeting (as of OCT 10, 2025).

Travel

The Federation will reimburse travel costs at 65.5 cents per mile to members of the Federation Officers, Participating Past Presidents, Appointed Officers, Federation Committee Chairs, Federation Board Members (Chapter Presidents or Designated Alternates), Federal Legislative Committee Vice Chair, State Legislative Committee Vice Chair, participating Senatorial Leaders, and participating Congressional District Leaders. The Federation will also reimburse travel costs to each chapter for (only) one driver of a chapter carpool for each day.

Lunch

Lunch will be provided each day for the Federation Officers, Federation Past Presidents, Appointed Officers, Federation Committee Chairs, Federation Board Members (Chapter Presidents or Designated Alternates), Federal Legislative Committee Vice Chair, State Legislative Committee Vice Chair, participating Senatorial Leaders and participating Congressional District Leaders. Other registrants and guests are welcome. The registration fee includes coffee and pastries, lunch, materials and meeting rooms. All chapter members, no matter how many days they plan to attend, will need to register, just as for any regular Federation Board meeting. All members who sign up for lunch on Monday and/or lunch on Tuesday will be responsible for attending. All chapters will be responsible for and will be billed for any No Shows. The Federation is charged for the full lunch count whether or not the members attend.

Hotel

The Federation will reimburse hotel charges for Federation Officers, Appointed Officers, Federation Board Members (Chapter Presidents or Designated Alternates) and Federation Committee Chairs for two nights of the two-day Mini-Conference. If Federation Board Members (Chapter Presidents or Designated Alternates) and Federation Committee Chairs elect not to stay overnight at the hotel, they will be entitled to mileage for the second day, the amount not to exceed the cost of the hotel room. The Federation may also reimburse specific persons whose attendance is required.

Attendees are responsible for making their own reservations with the Comfort Inn Hotel, Bowie. Make reservations early if you intend to stay overnight on the first day of the Mini-Conference. Details on hotel reservations are included in the Call to the Mini-Conference.

REMINDER to Chapter Presidents -

The Registration Form is provided separately as an attachment to the Call Letter Email. Please register ALL your Chapter attendees and guests on the registration form and submit it by the DEADLINE – Friday, April 10, 2026.