



The Key Notes

National Active and Retired
Federal Employees Association
Chapter No. 409 Frederick, Maryland

April 2013
Newsletter

President: Mary Lou Blessing • 5017 Camelback Lane
Frederick, MD 21703 • 301-473-5662

Editor: Lou Popowsky • 5943 Picnic Woods Rd
Jefferson, MD 21755 • 301-371-6648

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mary Lou Blessing (301-473-5662) ml.blessing@comcast.net

The last two weeks have been warm enough (especially when we “scared away” that blizzard) and my bulbs are tall enough that I am anxiously awaiting truly spring weather. We can then all come out of hibernation and be out and about. Hopefully, that includes coming out to our chapter luncheons. This month on **Friday, April 19th**, our entertainment will be the Goldentones, the Frederick County Senior Recreation Council chorus.

This is also the meeting at which we will present our annual charity donation to an organization serving the elders of Frederick County. The organization which has been chosen by our Charity Committee is Montevue, Frederick County's Assisted Living Residence. Remember that the last time the chapter made our donation to Montevue, we were pleased to learn that our donation had funded a day trip for the residents. In fact, a day trip which otherwise would have been cancelled for lack of funds. We are able to make this donation from the purchases of 50/50 tickets during our luncheons. This is one more reason to attend the luncheons – to help make a difference in someone's life via our charity donations.

Last, but most certainly not least, on our luncheon agenda, will be our election of officers for the 2013-2014 term, which begins in May. The Nominating Committee's report appears later in this newsletter but I am going to ask for your help right here on the front page. We need some folks to be willing to make a commitment to the chapter and take on one of our two vacant positions.

First, we are without a President for the upcoming term. Someone in this chapter has the interest and the skills to take on this “leadership opportunity”. If you

are that person, you would have the good fortune to have the aid of an Executive Board comprised of folks who know their jobs and most importantly, do them. Another idea - perhaps two of you would share the position and duties. It works for Chapter 581 in Gaithersburg. Please help your chapter out here.

We also need to provide for Luncheon Coordination. This task consists of receiving the checks and reservations for the monthly meetings, reporting the number of reservations to the Legion, preparing nametags for those folks submitting reservations and then delivering their checks to the Treasurer who pays the Legion. Perhaps you have a friend that you would share this task with – one would do certain months and the other person the other months. One might prepare the nametags and be at the meeting to answer questions, while the other does the post office visits to pick up the checks, answers phone questions, etc. Be creative and then approach a member of the board with your idea.

41st Maryland Federation State Convention, Ocean City, April 29-May1.

Last call for registrations. The convention will be work but also time to relax, socialize and meet other NARFE Members. Convention registrations and Banquet reservations and checks must be received by our President, Mary Lou Blessing by April 6th in order not to be late. Checks should be made payable to Maryland Federation of Chapters, NARFE. For more information, call Mary Lou Blessing, 301-473-5662.

The Maryland Federation has chosen the Carousel Resort Hotel located on the beach at 11700 Coastal Highway, Ocean City MD 21842, 1-800-641-0011. You must make your own hotel reservations. Mention the NARFE Convention and you may still be able to get the discounted rates.

Registration is \$45 per person and includes the luncheons on Monday and Tuesday. Single-day registration is \$25, specify which day you will attend. Late registration is \$50.

The banquet will be on Tuesday. Reservations should include attendee names, menu choice and a check for \$45 per person. Menu choices are: Chicken Cordon Bleu, Salmon En Croute or Vegetable Saute. Banquet reservations cannot be cancelled after 23 April.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Kathy Siggins (301-829-2462)

Federal Workers are “Fed Up” was the theme at our rally on Capitol Hill on Tuesday, March 12. Approximately 265 NARFE members attended the Federal Legislative Training Conference in Arlington, VA, March 9-12, 2013.

While we were meeting with our elected officials, Sen. Barbara Mikulski, chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Committee reluctantly released a temporary funding measure that included an extension of the basic federal pay-rate freeze to the end of this fiscal year. “I think this is a terrible mistake,” she added, “the way I serve you is to make sure there is no government shutdown.” She believed she had no choice but to make a deal with the Republicans. With both the Senate and the House including the freeze extension in their spending measures, it is essentially a done deal and will most likely eliminate the 0.5 percent pay raise promised for this year.

Several variations on furlough are being planned because agencies are affected differently. EPA is planning 4 days through June, Labor will furlough some parts but not all, and DoD is planning up to 22 days across the board through September. Among agencies to issue formal notices are FAA, 11 days; Customs and Border Protection, 14; EPA, 13; and OMB, 10.

The House bill says, “Compensation for federal employees continues to outpace pay for their private-sector counterparts” and that the federal workplace is characterized by “privileged rules enjoyed by government employees”. In addition, the bill says, “Immune from the effects of the recession, federal

employees have received regular salary bumps regardless of productivity or economic realities.” These views are strongly disagreed with by the federal labor leaders.

Are we “fed up?” You bet we are!

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Bill Elsen, Membership (301-663-4027)

One new member joined our chapter in February; an annuitant named Wanda Eader. Another annuitant transferred into our chapter from the Wheaton/Glenmont chapter (1887). We look forward to seeing you at our luncheon meetings. Five of our members, whose membership had relapsed, have been reinstated. They are Patton Allen, Jacqueline Allen, W. Earl Bere, M. R. Oldach, and Wayne Yonekawa. We were notified that six of our members have passed away. Members dropped for non-renewal are Linda Combs, John Duzak, Charles Dwyer, Joseph Fanelli, Paul Kelley, and Floyd Watts. If you know any of these members, please urge them to re-join. This gives us a net loss of five members. If you know of any prospects you can find membership applications in the monthly NARFE Magazine or contact me.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Mary Lou Blessing, Bill Elsen, Kathy Siggins

For the one-year term beginning May 2013, the Nominating Committee is pleased to announce that most chapter officers are willing to continue performing their jobs in the new term. Scott Darby will become Newsletter Editor and Elinor Abrell will come on the Executive Board replacing Scott as an At-Large member. Unfortunately, there are still two important vacancies, Chapter President and Luncheon Coordinator. Chapter members are welcome to speak to a member of the nominating committee about either of these two positions, and are urged to consider volunteering for these very important jobs. Members also have the opportunity to nominate additional persons for any office at the April luncheon. But please, if you intend to nominate someone, be sure you have their permission to do so.

SECRETARY'S REPORT
Margaret Hawker (301-874-8409)

The Chapter Executive Committee met on March 12 at the American Legion. The secretary's minutes and the treasurer's report were approved. Service Officer report was given. Nominating Committee report was presented. There are still two vacancies, President and Luncheon Coordinator. The Federation Convention will be held April 29-May 1.

We are saddened to report the following Chapter 409 related deaths.

- Chapter 409 members.**
Mary Grace Mullinix, 88 years old, Died March 7, 2013, no widower.
James E. Forbus, 80 years old, Died March 7, 2013, Widow is Elin of Frederick.
Mary Jackson, 94 years old, Died March 7, 2013, no Widower.

Relatives of Chapter 409 members:
 No relative of Chapter 409 members passed away this month.

Chapter 409 members, relatives sick and or shut-ins needing our prayers and concerns:
 Betty Chase, Don Dupreie, Geraldine Fagin, Joyce Gregoire, Irene Owens, Gil Monck, Dorothy Piper, Jurgan Piper, and Ann Simon
Gil Monck, Chaplain (1-717-762-7484)

TREASURER'S REPORT
Jerie O'Connor (301-845-7964)

BALANCE as of January 31, 2013.....\$7607.93
 Receipts for February.....\$1691.12
 Expenditures for February.....\$1421.25
BALANCE as of February 28, 2013.....\$7877.80
TOTAL FUNDS available as of February 28, 2013.....\$7877.80

CHARITIES
Chapter Charities: Ruth Davis (301-874-1997)
Alzheimer's Fund: Kathy Siggins (301-829-2462)

February Charities.....\$ 53.00
 YTD Charities Raffle.....\$ 456.00
 February Alzheimer's.....\$ 55.00
 YTD Alzheimer's\$ 671.50

Chapter 409 is now sending the Newsletter electronically to members who have provided their email addresses. We would like to have more participants in our E-Newsletter as this saves us the costs of printing and postage. We ask that everyone consider trying the electronic version of our Newsletter. We will only use your email address for the Newsletter and the Booklet. Please email Walt Rabbitt at wrabb@comcast.net with the email address you prefer to use for the newsletter.

Luncheon:
Date: APRIL 19, 2013
Location: American Legion, 1450 Taney Ave., Frederick, MD.
Time: Doors will open at 11 AM. Lunch served at 12 noon. Program starts promptly at 1 PM.
Menu: Roast Beef
Program: Performance by the Golden Tones, Charity Donation, and Election of Officers.
 We must receive your mail reservation or cancellation no later than Friday April 12. Call **Liz Popowsky 301-371-6648** with any questions. MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 609, JEFFERSON, MD 21755-0609

Reservations for April 19, 2013 luncheon meeting: Please complete this form and send it with a check payable to NARFE Chapter 409 in the amount of **\$12.00** per person. Mail both to **NARFE #409 Luncheon, P.O. Box 609, Jefferson, MD 21755-0609**. We need to reserve the number of meals by Friday, April 12, 2013 so PLEASE MAIL AS EARLY AS YOU CAN.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Member</i>	<i>Guest</i>	<i>New Member</i>	<i>1st Luncheon</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Member</i>	<i>Guest</i>	<i>New Member</i>	<i>1st Luncheon</i>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Telephone Number: _____					_____				

Frederick Chapter 409, Inc. Of NARFE
 12280 Rosswood Dr.
 Monrovia, MD 21770-9400
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION U.S. POSTAGE PAID Frederick, MD Permit No. 81
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Chapter 409 NARFE

Dues payments and gifts or contributions to NARFE are NOT deductible as charitable contributions for Federal Income Tax purposes.

Visit us at our website: <https://sites.google.com/site/narfe409/>

**CHAPTER 409 OFFICERS
 May 2012 – May 2013**

<i>President</i>	Mary Lou Blessing	301-473-5662	<i>Chaplain</i>	Gil Monck	1-717-762-7484
<i>Immed Past President</i>	Ted Jensen	301-845-2088	<i>Assistant Chaplain</i>	Kathy Kusel	202-264-0892
<i>VP-Membership</i>	Bill Elsen	301-663-4027	<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Louis Popowsky	301-371-6648
<i>VP-Legislative</i>	Kathy Siggins	301-829-2462	<i>Exec Comm At-Large</i>	Margaret Clark	301-834-7519
<i>Recording Secretary</i>	Margaret Hawker	301-874-8409	<i>Exec Comm At-Large</i>	Ruth Davis	301-874-1997
<i>Corresponding Sec'y</i>	Linda Adams	301-253-4740	<i>Exec Comm At-Large</i>	Scott Darby	301-662-7123
<i>Treasurer</i>	Jerie O'Connor	301-845-7964	<i>Exec Comm At-Large</i>	Walter Rabbitt	301-865-5255
<i>Luncheon Coordinator</i>	Liz Popowsky	301-371-6648	<i>Exec Comm At-Large</i>	Joseph Shrader	301-845-7184
<i>Service Officer</i>	Chuck Caloia	301-938-2000	<i>Exec Comm At-Large</i>	Tom Wiley	301-534-4247
<i>Assistant Service Officer</i>	Betty Lind	301-898-7419			