



The Key Notes

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

April 2014
Newsletter

VP-Membership Bill Elsen 301-663-4027
VP-Legislative Kathy Siggins 301-829-2462

Editor: Scott Darby 14 S. Pendleton Ct.
Frederick, MD 21703 301-662-7123

CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Bill Elsen (301-663-4027) bilmarmp@comcast.net
Kathy Siggins (301-829-2462) siggimax@mindspring.com

First, I was to thank Mary Lou Blessing for writing the March Co-President's Report, Kathy Kusel and Orley Bourland for the Legislative Report, and a special thanks to Joe Shrader for leading our February luncheon. I had cataract surgery two weeks apart in February and I'm glad to report that everything went well. I attribute my speedy recovery to everyone who stepped up to make things run smoothly by helping me with my duties. For that, I am extremely grateful. I'm now looking forward to clearly seeing the presentation given by our guest speaker who will give us an overview of what the Urban Search and Rescue Task Force does in times of terrorist attacks or natural disasters. It's good to know that we have America's best standing by to jump into action when the need arises.

Steve Willey is a member of the elite Urban Search and Rescue Task Force of Fairfax County, Virginia (known as VATF-1). VATF-1, one of only two specialized urban search-and-rescue units in the United States authorized to operate internationally, is deployed during large-scale emergencies in which construction and engineering expertise is as essential as search and rescue capabilities. Steve has been a member of the group since it was founded in 1989, and participated in emergency response efforts in the aftermath of the Oklahoma City bombing, the bombing at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, the 1999 Taiwan earthquake, the Sept. 11, 2001 attack at the Pentagon, and the earthquake that devastated Port-au-Prince, Haiti, on Jan. 12, 2010. Steve has led engine companies, heavy rescue companies, and ambulances in Fairfax County, one of the most demanding jurisdictions in the United States. In recognition of this outstanding service, Steve won the Fair Oaks Volunteer Firefighter of the Year award in 1990 and the Fairfax County Officer of the Year award in 1992.

I have requested great weather, so plan to join us for this exciting presentation on **April 18th** and don't forget to bring friends.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

(Excerpted from an article on page 52 in your April NARFE magazine)

NARFE would get the most dramatic reorganization of its 92-year existence under a long-term plan endorsed by the National Executive Board. The Board agreed, as a first step, to cut in half the number of regions represented on the Board from 10 regions to five.

The Board also agreed to offer bylaw amendments that, if adopted, would:

- Reduce the number of National Officers from four to two, retaining only a National President and National Treasurer and abolishing the National Vice President and National Secretary positions;
- Make membership in chapters optional, rather than mandatory as it has been since 1988; and
- Open membership in the Association to everyone, not just those entitled to an annuity from the federal government, and provide a youth membership for individuals under the age of 26.

Amending NARFE's National Bylaws would require a two-thirds vote at the NARFE National Convention in August.

The 26-page document describes NARFE's current situation as one of declining membership, less member participation, over-reliance on dues revenue and a lack of focus of resources on NARFE's core legislative mission. The report makes 35 recommendations to move the Association in a new direction. (The report may be found at www.narfe.org. Log in and click on the Future of NARFE Committee banner.)

In addition to the proposed immediate changes, additional far-reaching changes are envisioned, following strategic planning to draft an

implementation schedule and adoption of additional by-law amendments at future conventions.

ALZHEIMER'S REPORT

Kathy Siggins (301-829-2462)



Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D. & Kathy Siggins

On February 26, 2014, Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D., Director of National Institutes of Health, testified before the Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS Subcommittee), a hearing to Examine Economic Impact of Alzheimer's in America; State of Biomedical Research to Prevent Disease.

Alzheimer's Association Forget-Me-Not Gala

The 15th annual Alzheimer's Association Forget-Me-Not Gala, "Dancing Stars of Frederick," will be held Saturday, May 3, 2014, at the Walkersville Social Hall, 79 W. Frederick Street, Walkersville, MD 21793, from 7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. Gala tickets are \$95 per person. Advanced ticket purchases required. The event will feature the "Making a Memory" Raffle offering a chance to win a 7-day Caribbean Cruise for two (2) on the Malt Shop Memories "Cruise" I. Package includes round-trip airfare from either BWI or Dulles airport to Ft. Lauderdale, FL. Raffle tickets: 1 for \$25 or 5 for \$100. To "Vote" for your favorite Dancing Star, purchase Gala or Raffle tickets, or for details visit: <http://act.alz.org/2014ForgetMeNotGala> You can also contact Kristen Weddle at 301.696.0315 or e-mail kweddle@alz.org

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Georgia Wells (301-865-9693)

The following are the members nominated by the Nominating Committee to stand for election as Chapter 409 officers for the 2014 – 2015 term.

President - Vacant

1st VP Membership - Vacant

2nd VP Legislation - Kathy Siggins

Newsletter Editor - Scott Darby

Treasurer - Jerie O'Connor

Luncheon Coordinator - Kathy Kusel

Chaplain - Vacant

Assistant Chaplain - Kathy Kusel

Service Officer - Charles Caloia

Assistant Service Officer - Betty Lind

Recording Secretary - Margaret Hawker

Corresponding Secretary - Linda Adams

Immediate Past President - Mary Lou Blessing

Member-at-Large (Vote for six)

Elinor Abrell

Margaret Clark

Bill Elsen

Ruth M. Davis

Walter Rabbitt

Joseph N. Shrader

Tom Wiley

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Walter Rabbit (301-865-5255)

In February we added two new members, four were reinstated, four passed away and five were dropped for non-renewal. If you know these dropped members perhaps they could use some encouragement to rejoin NARFE.; Jim Grothe, Davis Johnson, Charles Kingsolver, Paul Orrison and Jenny Weddle. Can you help?

Who listens to us? Our local politicians sometimes, but they are few in number. In the Congress there are hundreds of members and to protect our benefits many more need to hear our views. NARFE's lobbyists have access to these politicians that we don't. But, they need to speak for many, many NARFE members. Help us get new members to add to our lobbyist's influence.

LUNCHEON ANNOUNCEMENT

Due to Health Department rules, we have been told by the American Legion Post that outside food cannot be brought into the luncheons.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Margaret Hawker (301-874-8409)

The Chapter Executive Committee met on March 18 at the American Legion. The secretary's minutes and the treasurer's report were approved. Membership, Legislative, Chaplain, Luncheon, and Newsletter reports were given. Charity donation of \$500 to Daybreak was approved. Nominating Committee needs candidates for President, VP Membership, and Chaplain. Please contact a member of the Executive Committee if interested.

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

Members

Dr. Morton Reitman, 95 years old, died March 3, 2014.

William Wolfe, 80 years old, died March 17, 2014, Widow of 58 years is JoAnn Wolfe of Myersville

Relatives of Chapter 409 members:

Ann Elsen, 52 years old, died March 1, 2014. She was the daughter of Bill and Mary Elsen. Bill is our Co-President.

Chapter 409 members, relatives sick and or shut-ins needing our prayers and concerns:

Sisty Vincent, Betty Chase, Don Dupreie, Joyce Gregoire, Irene Owens, Dorothy and Jurgen Piper (now in Homewood), Ann Simon, Gil Monck

Gil Monck, Chaplain (1-717-762-7484)

Please contact Gil with any information for this section of the newsletter.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jerie O'Connor (301-845-7964)

BALANCE as of January 31, 2014.....\$7,312.74
 Receipts for February.....\$1,600.12
 Expenditures for February.....(\$1,977.57)
TOTAL FUNDS available as of 2-28-2014.....\$6,935.29

CHARITY REPORT

Ruth Davis (301-874-1997)

March 2014	50/50	\$35
March 2014	Alzheimer's Raffle	\$51
	Alzheimer's donations	\$30
	Total	\$116

Chapter 409 is now sending the Newsletter electronically. We would like to have more participants in our E-Newsletter as this saves us the costs of printing and postage. 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.

Date: April 18, 2014

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: Meatless lasagna

Program: (1) Fairfax County Urban Search and Rescue Team
 (2) Election of Officers

We must receive your mail reservation or cancellation no later than Friday April 11, 2014. Call

Kathy Kusel 1-202-264-0892 with any questions.
MAILING ADDRESS: 4006 Carriage Hill Dr., Frederick, MD 21704

Reservations for April 18, 2014 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 CHAPTER #409, 4006 Carriage Hill Dr., Frederick, MD 21704**

We need to reserve the number of meals by Friday, April 11, 2014 so PLEASE MAIL AS EARLY AS YOU CAN.

Name _____ Member Guest New Member 1st Luncheon

Name _____ Member Guest New Member 1st Luncheon

Telephone Number: _____

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

APRIL 2014

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APRIL 2014 NEWSLETTER

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/>

Linda Adams-Webmaster 301-253-4740

**CHAPTER 409 OFFICERS
 May 2013 – May 2014**

<i>Co-Presidents</i>	Bill Elsen	Kathy Siggins	<i>Chaplain</i>	Gil Monck	1-717-762-7484
<i>Immed Past President</i>	Mary Lou Blessing	301-473-5662	<i>Assistant Chaplain</i>	Kathy Kusel	202-264-0892
<i>VP-Membership</i>	Bill Elsen	301-663-4027	<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Scott Darby	301-662-7123
<i>VP-Legislative</i>	Kathy Siggins	301-829-2462	<i>Exec Comm At-Large</i>	Elinor Abrell	301-831-8753
<i>Recording Secretary</i>	Margaret Hawker	301-874-8409	<i>Exec Comm At-Large</i>	Margaret Clark	301-834-7519
<i>Corresponding Sec'y</i>	Linda Adams	301-253-4740	<i>Exec Comm At-Large</i>	Ruth Davis	301-874-1997
<i>Treasurer</i>	Jerie O'Connor	301-845-7964	<i>Exec Comm At-Large</i>	Walter Rabbitt	301-865-5255
<i>Luncheon Coordinator</i>	Kathy Kusel	1-202-264-0892	<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			