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President’s Message (Elinor Abrell • 301-831-8753)

It’s been a long, long time! In fact, the last meeting of Chapter 409 was held in February 2020. I remember considerable discussion about whether or not the March meeting should be cancelled.....well, it was, and the rest, as they say, is history. Now, some nineteen months later, the “Restart” button has been pushed. We have a new meeting date, a new venue, and a new lunch procedure to follow, all detailed in the **New Lunch Venue** article below. There will be no program with this first meeting, as we want to assess how the venue works for us. Just come to greet, meet, and eat in the presence of friends and acquaintances perhaps not seen for some time!

Absolutely we miss the American Legion and all that it had to offer for our luncheon meetings. However, post COVID and with new management, we were simply priced out of returning there. The Executive Committee discussed this problem at length, and a Search Committee was appointed to investigate seven possible venues in the Frederick area. This turned out to be a daunting task, with the Committee giving considerable time, effort, and thought to the task. Ultimately, Golden Corral was deemed to best meet the needs for a Chapter meeting site. Thank you, Search Committee, for a job very well done: Chair Chuck Caloia, and members Pam Ogasawara, Kathy Siggins, and Vicki Yanez.

To attend or not to attend a meeting at Golden Corral is a question some members may ponder. As always, in this COVID era, one must make a decision by weighing personal risk factors against risk factors of what is desired. The restaurant seems to be making every effort to follow COVID regulations, and maintain cleanliness and safety for customers. In addition, we will be meeting on the second Tuesday of the month at 11:00 AM, a time expected to be in advance of typical lunch attendance. We really want to “restart” Chapter 409, but will still be vigilant of any COVID impact that may come in the time prior to this meeting, and we will follow CDC, State and local guidelines. As always, stay safe and stay well!

New Lunch Venue (Chuck Caloia • 301-938-2000)

Good news! The Chapter 409 Executive Board is preparing to resume the chapter’s in person monthly luncheon meetings. Going forward, luncheons will take place at a new location, the Golden Corral Buffet at 5621 Spectrum Drive, near Francis Scott Key Mall. The Board selected Golden Corral after considering several Frederick County sites. The search for a new location was prompted by concern that our previous luncheon location had raised its prices beyond a level many of our members would find comfortably affordable. The scheduled day of the month for our luncheons will change as well. Instead of meeting on the third Friday of the month, our future luncheons will occur on the second Tuesday of the month. **If public health guidance doesn’t change from its current status, our luncheons will resume on Tuesday, September 14th at 11 AM.**

Golden Corral offers a buffet with a wide selection of items, including salad and dessert bars, at a per person price of \$12.49 for seniors (age 60+) plus tax. Water, coffee, and tea are included and brought to your table by a server. Soft drinks are an extra \$2.49 plus tax, which you pay for and are served to you as you enter. (Refills of all drinks are free.) Cash and major credit cards are accepted. Additionally, we strongly

encourage each attendee to leave a tip for the service staff of at least 15% of the bill. Upon entering Golden Corral, everyone will pay at the cash register. You will no longer need to reserve your luncheon seat by sending a check in advance. Our luncheons will take place in the private room reserved for our use. The room is at the far end of the building, to your right as you proceed from the cash register. Please take a clean plate for each trip to the buffet, but be sure to hang on to your silverware until you’ve finished your meal.

Based on current public health guidance pertaining to COVID, and until further notice, only chapter members who have been fully vaccinated may attend a chapter luncheon. If you have not been fully vaccinated, or if you are not feeling well on the day of the luncheon, please do not attend. However, you should always bring a mask with you to wear while getting your food from the buffet, as you probably will be near customers who are not members of our chapter.

One thing expected to remain the same is the 11:00 AM “doors opening” time. Please make your last trip to the buffet before the guest speaker’s presentation begins. At this writing, a program of monthly speakers and topics has not been completed. As we return from the days of COVID isolation, there could be luncheons without a speaker. We expect most features of our luncheons, such as the raffles, to continue as before. Unlike most other potential luncheon sites, Golden Corral will allow us to use a private room at no additional cost. Their revenue comes only from charging each customer for the buffet, consequently, chapter members no longer will be permitted to attend our meetings without purchasing food.

We trust that these changes will meet with your approval and look forward to seeing all of your smiling faces again soon.

Financial Report (submitted by Kathy O’Connor)

Balance available to Chapter 409 as of Oct 31, 2020	\$. . . . \$5,295.18
• Income for 11/1/20 – 7/31/21 (dues) \$2,270.31
• Expenses for 11/1/20 – 7/31/21 (printing, postage, dues transferred to Nat’l, insurance, convention, donation to Alzheimer’s) \$1,233.98
Balance available to Chapter 409 as of July 31, 2021	\$. . . . \$6,331.51

Alzheimer’s Report (Kathy Siggins • 301-829-2462)

The Greater Maryland Walk to End Alzheimer’s is scheduled for Sunday, October 10, in Frederick. Kathy Siggins will lead Team HOPE for the 28th year in memory of her late husband Gene and in honor of individuals living with Alzheimer’s in our communities. If you would like to join Team HOPE or sponsor Kathy or Chuck Caloia who joined us two years ago, please visit Kathy’s secure donation website page at: http://act.alz.org/site/TR?fr_id=14526&pg=personal&px=1592650

All donations to the Alzheimer’s Association are tax-deductible as charitable contributions, and are greatly appreciated. Please know that every dollar counts and that no amount is too small. If you prefer, please make your check payable to: **Alzheimer’s Association** and mail to my attention at **13001 Purdum Court, Mount Airy, MD 21771**. Team HOPE is a proud member of NARFE’s National Walk to End Alzheimer’s Team. Since 1985, NARFE members have raised nearly \$14 million for the Alzheimer’s Association to help find a cure.

Thank you!

Frederick Chapter 409, Inc. of NARFE
2458 Five Shillings Road
Frederick, MD 21701

August 2021

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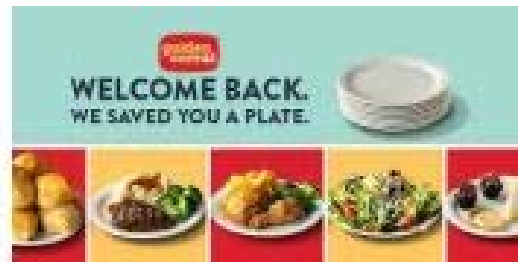
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August 2021 Newsletter

NARFE Chapter No. 409 • Frederick, Maryland

😊 **NARFE CHAPTER 409 IN PERSON LUNCHEONS ARE BACK!!!** 😊



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