



The Key Notes

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

December 2014
Newsletter

2nd VP-Legislative Kathy Siggins 301-829-2462

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

ACTING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kathy Siggins (301-829-2462)

siggimax@mindspring.com

I can't believe that this year is almost over. I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving, and as we continue through the holiday season, Christmas for me, I'd like to ask for everyone's help with one of my wishes, which is to make our chapter strong again. Membership for Chapter 409 is declining rapidly and we must do something about it. I'm very concerned about the low attendance at our luncheon meetings which have been at a decline for nearly a year. With over 800 members, less than 80 have been attending our luncheons regularly so I'm asking for your suggestions and ideas on how to make our luncheons more appealing to everyone. Would changing our venue or a different day be an option, knowing that the price of our luncheon will probably go up? What topics or future speakers would you suggest? We also need ideas for fundraising events to raise money for our chapter. We placed a suggestion sheet on the tables at our November luncheon and we plan to do the same in December. My suggestion is to have a brainstorm session at your table while we wait for lunch to be served. You can also email or call me with your ideas at your convenience. Another concern is the lack of involvement by our members not willing to step up to the plate and help fill vacancies on the board. This has been very frustrating to me. We need a Chaplain and the position of 1st VP Membership is still vacant, and many of us are doing double duties. Two chapters in MD closed this year because of lack of participation. If you want our chapter to survive, WE NEED YOUR HELP NOW. Just a reminder that if you haven't yet made a decision on your choice of health care provider, Open Season for the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program will be ending on December 8. Our program on December 19th will be

the Monocracy Elementary Chorus performing holiday songs. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone there and please remember to bring a friend.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Kathy Siggins (301-829-2462)

We had some Legislative wins in the 113th Congress (2013-2014) Session. No hits to current retirees by avoiding Chained CPI; the FEHBP self-plus-one option will be available in 2016; back pay provided to feds furloughed during the government shutdown; phased retirement now available; Senate postal bill remains stalled; and, successfully advocated for Hill staff during Affordable Care Act. Legislative Disappointments: 3-year federal employee pay freeze; two increases in retirement contributions for future feds (hired in 2013 and 2014); very small pay raise in 2014 and 2015; 16-day government shutdown in October 2013; 1-10 furlough days for 750,000 feds as a result of sequestration with a loss of \$1 billion in take home pay.

As we start the 114th Congress (2015-2016) Session in January, several threats are expected to be debated again as the focus returns to sequestration and the budget. The Chained CPI which would decrease cost-of-living adjustments for federal retirees, and increased retirement contributions for federal employees will be on the table once again and we have to be ready for the fight.

CHARITY REPORT

Ruth Davis (301-874-1997)

November 2014	50/50	\$55
November 2014	Alzheimer's Raffle	\$81
November 2014	Alzheimer's Donation	<u>\$40</u>
	Total	\$176

WANTED:
Your Opinions On The Chapter's
Monthly Luncheon Meetings

Background: The chapter's executive board would like your views on our monthly luncheon meetings.

Instructions:

1. This survey should be completed only by chapter members who did not attend the November 2014 luncheon meeting, where luncheon attendees answered these questions.
2. Your completion of this survey is optional, but the more members who respond, the better.
3. Mail your completed survey to: **Chuck Caloia, 9732 Royal Crest Circle, Frederick, MD 21704** or turn it in at the December luncheon.

Survey Questions:

How many of the chapter's luncheon meetings have you attended in the past 12 months? _____

Are you satisfied overall with the kinds and variety of foods served at our luncheons?

_____ Satisfied _____ Dissatisfied

Are you satisfied overall with how the food is prepared?

_____ Satisfied _____ Dissatisfied

Are you satisfied overall with the facilities at our luncheon location?

_____ Satisfied _____ Dissatisfied

How do you feel about the cost of the meals? (*Mark those statements you agree with.*)

_____ Fine as is

_____ Too expensive for what we get

_____ Quite a few members don't attend many luncheons due to their cost

_____ I'm willing to pay a dollar or two more per meal for better food/nicer facilities

_____ I'm willing to pay a dollar or two more per meal to improve the chapter's finances

Are you satisfied overall with the kinds & variety of topics covered in our luncheon programs?

_____ Satisfied _____ Dissatisfied

We welcome your ideas and comments (name optional). Please attach them on a separate sheet.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Walt Rabbit (301-865-5255)

I was hoping our October membership report would end with a positive number, but it was not to be. We had one reinstatement: Dennis R. Smith. Two members passed away: John Harding and Frank Smith. We had five members were dropped for non-renewal. They were Dorothy Branzell, Marvin Bures, Margaret Clark, Joseph Raymond and Charles Sinay. Can you get one of these former members to renew their membership? +1-2-5 = **-6**.

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

Members

James Seiler, 80 years old, died October 30, 2014.
Widow of 42 years is Nancy of Frederick.

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

Peg Bourland, Cindy Castellucci, Joyce Gregoire,
Gil Monck, Irene Owens, Dorothy Piper,
Jaimie Pugh, Ann Simon, Sisty Vincent.

Gil Monck (1-717-762-7484)

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Margaret Hawker (301-874-8409)

The Executive Committee of NARFE Chapter 409 met on November 18 at the American Legion. The minutes and the treasurer's report were approved. Legislative, Newsletter, Service, and Chaplain reports were given. Attendance at Chapter luncheons is dropping. A discussion was held regarding ways to generate more funds for the Chapter. The possibility of doing a survey to see what would make our luncheons more attractive to our members was also discussed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jerie O'Connor (301-845-7964)

BALANCE as of September 30, 2014.....\$5,774.03
Receipts for October.....\$1,447.37
Expenditures for October..... (\$609.51)
TOTAL FUNDS available as of 10-31-2014.....\$6,611.89

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.

NOTICE: If your address, telephone number, or email address changes, please remember to notify me, Bill Elsen, by telephone (301-663-4027) or email (bilmarmp@comcast.net). This will assure you will continue to receive our chapter newsletter and the NARFE Magazine and we will be able to contact you if necessary.

Date: **December 19, 2014**

Location: American Legion, 1450 Taney Ave., Frederick, MD.

Time: Doors will open at 11 AM. Lunch served at 12noon. Program starts promptly at 1 PM.

Menu: Chicken Divan

Program: Monocracy Elementary Chorus

We must receive your mail reservation or cancellation no later than Friday December 12, 2014.

Call **Kathy Kusel 1-202-264-0892** with any questions.

MAILING ADDRESS: 4006 Carriage Hill Dr., Frederick, MD 21704

Reservations for December 19, 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, December 12, 2014 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"/>

Telephone Number: _____

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

DECEMBER 2014

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DECEMBER 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 2014 – May 2015**

<i>President, Acting</i>	Kathy Siggins	301-829-2462	<i>Chaplain</i>	Vacant	
<i>Immed Past President</i>	Mary Lou Blessing	301-473-5662	<i>Assistant Chaplain</i>	Kathy Kusel	202-264-0892
<i>1st VP-Membership</i>	Vacant		<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Scott Darby	301-662-7123
<i>2nd 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>	Ruth Davis	301-874-1997
<i>Corresponding Sec'y</i>	Linda Adams	301-253-4740	<i>Exec Comm At-Large</i>	Bill Elsen	301-663-4027
<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			