



The Key Notes

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

December 2018
Newsletter

Co-President Elinor Abrell 301-831-8753 abrellem@comcast.net

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NARFE Chapter 409 Luncheon
Friday, December 21 Doors open 11:00 a.m.

WEINBERG CENTER on West Patrick Street in downtown Frederick is well known to area residents. Come and learn its interesting history, how it was brought back from disastrous flooding, and how it has become a showcase for performing arts of all kinds, enhancing the area's cultural life.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Elinor Abrell (301-831-8753)

The contentious midterm elections are now behind us (except for Florida). There is a short "lame duck" session of the current Congress with several 2019 appropriation bills still on the table that must be passed in order to avoid another continuing resolution. Once again the President is threatening a government shut-down if there is not funding voted for the wall. The New Year will bring with it a new Congress whose actions we will be watching with great interest. Remember that NARFE is always there, striving to protect and preserve the pay and earned benefits of federal employees and retirees, by making sure those interests stay before legislators.

Third Friday. For many years now this has been the date of Chapter 409's monthly luncheons. The Executive Committee would like to hear from members: is this a good date for you or would you be better able to come to luncheons if they were on some other date, for example 2nd Tuesday or 4th Wednesdayor does the date not matter at all? A survey of this was taken at the November luncheon. If you were not in attendance and would like to offer your date suggestion, please call Elinor Abrell.

If you have not already done so, remember that Open Season, during which you may make any changes in your health benefits, ends on Monday, December 10.

ALZHEIMER'S REPORT

Kathy Siggins (301-829-2462)



Chapter 409 member Kathy Siggins was the recipient of a special award from Blue Cross and Blue Shield at the November meeting, the *NARFE Distinguished Annuitant Award*. BC/BS provides this award to recognize and honor members of NARFE chapters who make substantial service contributions to their chapter, to their community, and/or to needs of others. Kathy received a framed certificate of appreciation and a gift. She is shown here with David Hurka, representative from BC/BS, who made the presentation.

LEGISLATIVE

David Carmack (240-578-4965)

The most urgent issue at this time is the pay raise for federal employees for calendar year 2019. The President has recommended no pay raise. Tied in with appropriations, the federal employees' pay raise for calendar year 2019 depends upon reconciliation of the Senate version of H.R. 6147, which recommended a 1.9 percent raise, and of the House version of H.R. 6147, which is silent on this issue. So far, there has been no

action on this by the Conference Committee. Unless Congress approves a pay raise, the President's decision of "no pay raise" will stand. The President's other recommendations with respect to federal employees, which recommendations have been detailed in prior issues of The Key Notes, are still pending before Congress.

[Register today](#) to secure your spot at **LEGcon19**, NARFE's Legislative Training Conference. You'll learn how best to engage with legislators and staff, develop best practices for communicating your concerns, and participate in a NARFE day on Capitol Hill. Join hundreds of fellow NARFE members for this three-day training conference, March 10 – 13, 2019, at the Alexandria Mark Center Hilton in Alexandria, VA. LEGcon19 is open to all NARFE members interested in learning how to advocate for NARFE's legislative priorities and protect members of the federal community from having their earned pay and benefits cut. You'll leave Washington, DC, proud to be a member of the federal community, energized by expert-led training on advocacy best practices and ready for your role as a trained and seasoned advocate.

The \$199 early-bird registration fee will be available through December 15. After registering for LEGcon19, don't forget to book your hotel room at the NARFE rate of \$175 per night. For more information on the hotel, [click here](#).

Additional information about the conference is available on the LEGcon19 [website](#). If you have any questions, please contact the advocacy department at advocacy@narfe.org. We look forward to seeing you at the conference!

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Dennis Vernon (301-694-8003)

Sorry I've been out for a while but to make a long story short – I now have a pacemaker. They tell me that the pacemaker will last for about 12 years before the battery will need to be replaced. Really!! What kind of battery is that? I certainly could use that kind of a battery in my remote controller and flashlight. They said they don't know (I think they won't tell me). OK - on with the Newsletter. Please welcome the following prospective members: Angela Armstrong; D. Briggs, Janet Browning, Sheila Gale, Kevin Greenlees, Patrick Moshier, Laura Roeder, Michael Shifrin, Alice Thaler,

and David Waugh. We now have Robert Patrick as the newest member to our chapter. Welcome Aboard to him and Karen Webb who transferred in from another chapter. Speaking of transfers, Carl Lazerow transferred to another chapter. NARFE HQ advised that the following members have been dropped for non-renewal: Dessie Bowers, William Discher, and Beverly Hubble. If you know of these folks, you may wish to give them a reminder to renew their membership to keep informed about possible federal benefit changes – our retirement benefits are a big target for political lawmakers eager to make a reputation for themselves. Only our membership numbers give us visibility with lawmakers.

NOVEMBER FEHB LUNCHEON



At our November luncheon meeting, the chapter hosted representatives of major FEHB plans to discuss their plans' key features and changes for 2019. This year's FEHB Open Season runs from November 12th to December 10th.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Margaret Hawker (301-874-8409)

The Executive Committee of NARFE Chapter 409 met on Tuesday, November 13, at the American Legion. The minutes were approved. The Treasurer's report was given and approved. Legislative, Newsletter, Service, and Luncheon reports were given. Linda A. reported on the recent Federation training session.

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

Members
None

Relatives of 409 Members

Emilline Zimmerman, age 94, died October 30, 2018. She is survived by her husband, Harry Zimmerman.

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

Ruth Davis, Betty Dean, Howard Lutz, Ann Niemiec, Jaimie Pugh, Ann Simon, Joe Shrader, Donald and Nadia Taylor
Please contact Gil Monck (1-717-762-7484) with any information for this section of the newsletter.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jerie O'Connor (301-845-7964)

BALANCE as of Sept. 30, 2018..... \$3,923.36
Receipts for October..... \$1,255.67
Expenditures for October..... (\$1,303.80)
TOTAL FUNDS available as of 10-31-2018... \$3,870.23

HELP WANTED

Scott Darby (301-662-7123)

This is my last year as the editor of the newsletter. If anyone would like to volunteer for this position, please let any board member or me know. It takes about 4-6 hours a month, including the monthly board meeting. If you can cut and paste you can do this.

TAX RELIEF? DISCUSSED IN SEPTEMBER



The case for tax relief for Marylanders was presented at the September meeting. Pictured here are the Chapter President, Elinor Abrell (left), with Paul Schwartz, Chair, State Legislation Committee, Maryland Federation of Chapters.

SNOW POLICY: If Frederick County Schools are closed for weather, then the luncheon meeting is canceled and checks will be shredded. A new reservation will be required at your next luncheon. If County Schools are delayed but open at meeting time, the luncheon meeting will be held as scheduled.

Date: **Dec. 21, 2018**

Location: American Legion, 1450 Taney Ave., Frederick, MD 21702

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

Menu: Chicken Divan

Program: John Healey, Executive Theater Director, Weinberg Center for the Arts

We must receive your mail reservation or cancellation no later than Friday **Dec. 14, 2018**.

MAILING ADDRESS: NARFE Chapter 409, P.O. Box 1716, Frederick, MD 21702

Luncheon questions, please call:
Gale Vernon 301-694-8003

Reservations for Dec. 21, 2018 luncheon meeting: Please complete this form and send it with a check payable to NARFE Chapter 409 in the amount of **\$16.00** per person. Mail both to **NARFE CHAPTER 409, P.O. Box 1716, Frederick, MD 21702**

We need to reserve the number of meals by Friday, Dec. 14, 2018 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 2018

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Some of you will find a (P) following your name on the mailing label. This means you are a "prospective" member.
Please consider joining NARFE by contacting Dennis Vernon at 301-694-8003 for membership information.

DECEMBER 2018 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

CALENDAR 2018

- Dec. 18** Chapter 409 Executive Committee Meeting
10:00 AM at American Legion (Same location as our luncheon)
All are welcome to come.
- Dec. 21** Chapter 409 Luncheon