



# The Key Notes

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

February 2015  
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](mailto:siggimax@mindspring.com)**

February is when our chapter starts the nominating process for the 2015-2016 Program. Now is the time to start thinking about positions you would like to volunteer for to help our chapter. I encourage and invite anyone to attend one of our board meetings which takes place the week of our luncheon at the American Legion on Tuesday morning at 9:30 a.m. We are usually done within two hours or less depending on how much fun we are having. Some of us enjoy going out to lunch afterwards just to socialize. I am planning on stepping down as Acting President in May, but will continue to be available to help with transition if necessary. I plan to continue following Alzheimer's and Legislative issues which are two of my passions. However, I am willing to help anyone who is interested in taking those positions. I became a volunteer advocate to Help Stamp Out Alzheimer's because this disease robbed me of my late husband who retired from the U.S. Postal Service in 1988. I joined NARFE as his surviving spouse, and I think it was one of the best things I ever did. I encourage anyone who loses their beloved spouse to continue their membership with NARFE or join as a surviving spouse as I did. It is up to us to protect our hard earned benefits that are always on the cutting block for Congress. Anyone can be an advocate. You just have to care about what's important to you and be willing to do whatever it takes. I can always use some company especially when I make my visits to DC and Annapolis, so I hope you will consider joining me sometime for some adventure. Our speaker on February 20<sup>th</sup> is Richard Griffin, Director of Economic Development for the City of Frederick. I hope you will join us for lunch and find out what future developments are in store for Frederick City.

## LEGISLATIVE REPORT

**Kathy Siggins (301-829-2462)**

Jessica Klement, Legislative Director for NARFE has stated: "A budget resolution early in 2015 is a top priority for the incoming 114<sup>th</sup> Congress. Republican leaders have already said they're interested in passing some federal workforce reform, and thanks to the rules first adopted in the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, they only need a majority vote in the House and Senate to move sweeping changes in entitlement, direct spending and revenue laws. Federal civil service benefits have long been the "low hanging fruit" in budget cutting circle. Budget reconciliation could be the vehicle many in Congress have been looking for to cut federal employee benefits." In March, NARFE members from across the country will attend the Legislative Training Conference for hands-on training opportunities to educate advocates on issues facing NARFE members, then culminates with a visit to your member of Congress and their staff on Capitol Hill Day, March 17. No registration is required to attend Hill Day ONLY, but please let me know if you are interested so that we can try to make some arrangements for transportation with others who are planning to attend that day. It is so important that we unite and carry our message to the Hill, if we want to defend our benefits from being cut. In addition, preparations have begun to reintroduce legislation to establish an Alzheimer's Disease Research Semipostal Stamp in the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress.

## ALZHEIMER'S REPORT

**Kathy Siggins (301-829-2462)**

Congratulations to Ms. Julianna Moore winner of the Golden Globe for Actress in a Motion Picture Drama (and recently nominated for an Oscar) for her portrayal of Dr. Alice Howland in "Still Alice." Dr. Howland was a Columbia University linguistics professor

diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer's disease. It is my hope that this movie will help bring Alzheimer's out of the shadows and into the forefront to help raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's research. Sounds like a field trip to me when released in our area. I'll keep you posted.

### THE GRINCH COMES TO NARFE

The membership was visited by the Grinch at the December luncheon. The Grinch could not dampen the holiday spirit of our group because of the Monocracy Elementary School Chorus. Their holiday program was very entertaining and fun for all that attended.



The Monacacy Elementary School chorus entertaining the luncheon members and guests.

### OPM GLITCH

**Dave Snell, Director  
Federal Benefits Services Department**

OPM experienced a technical malfunction impacting the Services On-line function for Retirees and Survivors. As a result individuals who logged in may have had access to other retirees' personal information. OPM had to bring down its Services On-Line site to

review the technical malfunction and possible security incident. OPM believes it has been resolved the malfunction and brought Services On-line back on line. OPM is reviewing any transactions made during the period in question. If there is any doubt about whether changes were made by the account holder, OPM will contact the customer to confirm.

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT

**Walt Rabbit (301-865-5255)**

In December our Chapter continued its decline in membership. One member, Gregory Lucht transferred out. Two members passed away, Edwin Casswell and William Wolfe. Six decided not to renew their membership, Kathleen Breeze, Stephen and Joan Kosack, Richard Ledger, Curt Marshall and Edward Sorensen. If you know any of these former members please contact them and encourage them to rejoin. Debra Roberts rejoined NARFE 409, welcome back Debra. The net result is eight fewer members. **YOUR HELP IS NEEDED TO REBUILD OUR MEMBERSHIP!**

### SORRY, NO SAMPLES

Our luncheon speaker for January was the CEO of Flying Dog Brewery, Jim Caruso. His talk on the why and how the brewery came to Frederick and of the 43 types of beers was informational and entertaining. His company's community support is to be greatly commended.



Mr. Jim Caruso, CEO of Flying Dog Brewery speaking to NARFE Chapter 409.

**CHARITY REPORT**

**Ruth Davis (301-874-1997)**

January 2015	50/50	\$46
January 2015	Alzheimer's Raffle	\$58
January 2015	Alzheimer's Donation	<u>\$10</u>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$114</b>

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**

**Margaret Hawker (301-874-8409)**

The Executive Committee of NARFE Chapter 409 met on January 13, 2015 at the American Legion. The minutes and the treasurer's report were approved. Newsletter, Membership, and Service reports were given. The call has been received for the Maryland Federation Convention in April in Ocean City. There are critical vacancies in the Chapter officers: President, 1<sup>st</sup> VP Membership, and Chaplain. Without these officers, the Chapter cannot function and might be closed.

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

**Members**

**William F. Geisbert**, died January 12, 2015 at age 84. Widow of 58 years is Ruthanna Geisbert of Frederick. Worked at Fort Detrick.

**Relatives of 409 Members**

**Roberta Kernan**, died November 25, 2014. Husband is 409 member Michael Kernan of Frederick.

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

Peg Bourland, Cindy Castellucci, Joyce Gregoire, Irene Owens, Dorothy Piper, Jaimie Pugh, Ann Simon, Donald and Nadia Taylor, Sisty Vincent, Tom Wiley

**Gil Monck (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 November 30, 2015.....	\$6,281.13
Receipts for November .....	\$1,470.04
Expenditures for November .....	(\$1,698.28)
<b>TOTAL FUNDS available as of 12-31-2015...</b>	<b><u>\$6,052.89</u></b>

**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 [wraab@comcast.net](mailto:wraab@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, Walt Rabbit, by telephone (301-865-5255) or email ([wraab@comcast.net](mailto:wraab@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: February 20, 2015**

**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:** Spaghetti with meatless sauce with meatballs separate

**Program:** (1) Richard Griffin  
Director of Economic Development  
City Of Frederick

(2) Nominating Committee Report

We must receive your mail reservation or cancellation no later than Friday February 13, 2015.

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

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

**Reservations for February 20, 2015 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, February 13, 2015 so PLEASE MAIL AS EARLY AS YOU CAN.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Member</i>	<i>Guest</i>	<i>New Member</i>	<i>1<sup>st</sup> Luncheon</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Member</i>	<i>Guest</i>	<i>New Member</i>	<i>1<sup>st</sup> 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**

FEBRUARY 2015

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**FEBRUARY 2015 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			