



The Key Notes

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

June 2014
Newsletter

VP-Legislative Kathy Siggins 301-829-2462

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

CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

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

"NARFE has 400,000 members and is a powerful lobbying Group whose main goal is to protect the earned benefits of retirees and survivors." This was my introduction to NARFE back in 2000. I joined because of two things. First, I was a surviving spouse of a retired Postal employee who had the misfortune of getting Alzheimer's. Second, NARFE's charity of choice is Alzheimer's disease, dedicated to raising money for research to help find a cure for this horrible disease. For me, it was a no brainer. NARFE was working twice as hard for me, protect my benefits and find a cure. A few years back NARFE decided to change its membership criteria and name to include active members and their issues as well as improve NARFE's membership numbers. On May 5 & 6, in preparation for our National Convention in August, I heard a new number. NARFE's membership has declined to 250,000. Unfortunately, the decline is caused by death and we are failing in our efforts to recruit new members. Average age is 74 and fewer are willing and able to accept leadership positions in our chapters. By now you have seen the Future of NARFE (FON) Report and Recommendations, in the April NARFE magazine, signaling the critical need to change the Association's current structure after its 92-year existence. The realignment of ten (10) regions to five (5) has been accomplished by the National Executive Board (NEB). In August at our National Convention in Orlando, FL, delegates will vote on three (3) issues: A resolution to proceed with the FON process; to reduce the number of the NEB from four to two; and change the chapter membership from

mandatory to optional. I encourage you to follow these important changes in your NARFE Magazine which will also contain candidates' statements for positions to be filled. Maryland resident Evelyn Kirby who is currently Vice President of the old Region II will run against William "Bill" Shackelford, Past President of the Virginia Federation of Chapters, for Vice President of the new Region I. We will cast our vote at the National Convention. Please express your concerns or suggestions to any member of our board prior to August.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Kathy Siggins (301-829-2462)

The Maryland Federation of Chapters represents almost 300,000 federal employees and annuitants in Maryland. They also sponsor and support legislation, rules and regulations that are beneficial to our senior population on federal, county and state legislative issues. A survey was mailed to legislative and gubernatorial candidates asking, if elected would you sponsor or cosponsor legislation for three specific issues:

Issue 1: Equalize Tax Subtraction from Income - Proposal: Extend the current exemption of \$5,000 on pensions of military retirees over age 65 to pensions of federal, state, and local public service retirees over age 65 and increase the amount to \$10,000.

Issue 2: Promote Long Term Care Insurance to Reduce the State MEDICAID Burden - Proposal: Encourage the purchase and retention of LTC insurance by the age 50-60 population when rates are lower by replacing the present one time \$500 tax credit into two \$250 credits for two years, then an annual \$500 credit thereafter on new long-term care insurance purchased. This is an investment by the state in the short term to save money on MEDICAID expenses longer term.

Issue 3: Equalize Tax Exemption for Maryland Seniors - Proposal: Increase the supplemental tax exemption of \$1000 for elderly taxpayers and their elderly spouses to match the \$3200 exemption that can be claimed for elderly dependents.

The following is the list of candidates that were sent the above survey and their responses. Many did not answer the survey.

<u>Governor</u>	<u>Issue 1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
Brown Anthony G. Democratic			
Gansler Doug Democratic			
Jaffe Ralph Democratic			
Mizeur Heather Democratic	No-	Yes-	Yes
Smith Charles U. Democratic			
Walsh Cindy A. Democratic			
Craig David R. Republican			
George Ron Republican	Yes-	Yes-	N/M
Hogan Larry Republican			
Lollar Charles Republican			
Quinn Shawn (GEN.. ELECTION ONLY) Libertarian			
Vaeth Brian Charles Republican			

<u>State Senator District 03</u>	<u>Issue 1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
Young Ronald N. Democratic	Yes-	Yes-	Yes
Stottlemeyer Corey Republican			

<u>House of Delegates District 03A</u>	<u>Issue 1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
Bouquet Nicholas Democratic			
Krimm Carol L. Democratic	Yes-	Yes-	Yes
Wilson Roger Democratic	Yes-	Yes-	Yes
Young Karen Lewis Democratic	Yes-	Yes-	Yes
Smith Paul Republican			
Wilkins Victoria Republican			

<u>House of Delegates District 03B</u>	<u>Issue 1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
Slater Stephen Democratic			
Folden William "Bill" Republican	Yes-	Yes-	Yes
Wigfield Darren Shay Republican			

<u>State Senator District 04</u>	<u>Issue 1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
Rupli Dan Democratic	Yes-	Yes-	Yes
Brinkley David Republican	Yes-	Yes-	Yes
Hough Michael Republican	Yes-	Yes-	Yes

<u>House of Delegates District 04</u>	<u>Issue 1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
Stanton Gene Democratic			
Afzali Kathy Republican			
Ciliberti Barrie S. Republican	Yes-	Yes-	Yes
Peters Wendi W. Republican	Yes-	Yes-	Yes
Schulz Kelly Republican			
Vogt David E. III Republican			
N/M-Not Marked			

MEMBERSHIP REPORT
Bill Elsen (301-663-4027)

We gained two new members this past month, Susan Harwell and Ann Stine-Schmidt, both annuitants. In addition, two lapsed members, Michael Kernan and Lea Ellen Meyer, were reinstated in April. Twelve members were dropped for non-renewal of their membership. They are Robert Bouchard, Ann Hoffman, Eleanor Murray, Patricia Rice, Bryan Ringose, David Schultz, George Seweryniak, Diane Stull, Harold Stull, Julio Valcarcel, Virginia Wilson, and Mary Wirfs. If you know any of these members please contact them and encourage them to re-join. Two members, David Corkan and Julia Hanes, who are enrolled in the "New Membership Incentive Program", have transferred out of Chapter 409 and moved to Chapter 2363, the e-chapter. I will try to contact them to determine if that was their desired intention. Three members, Charles Miller, Jurgen Piper, and William Trappen were listed as having passed away. In the category of New Prospective Members listed in the Chapter 409 Activity Report (M-112) by the National Office for April, there were three people who live in Frederick County. I will write to them, inviting them to join our chapter as 409 members. This gives us a net loss of 13 members. Hopefully we will get some of the nine "New Prospective Members" to join us.

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.

SECRETARY'S REPORT
Margaret Hawker (301-874-8409)

The Chapter Executive Committee met on May 5 at the American Legion. The Committee welcomed back Gil Monck. The secretary's minutes and the treasurer's report were approved. Legislative, Membership, Chaplain, and Service Officer reports were given. An ad for the National Convention booklet was approved.

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

Members

There were no deaths of members reported.

Relatives of Chapter 409 members:

Nancy Singler, 73 years old, died April 7, 2014. Wife of 47 years of 409 member James Singler of Frederick

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

Betty Chase, Don Dupreie, Joyce Gregoire, Gil and Joy Monck, Irene Owens, Dorothy Piper, Ann Simon, Sisty Vincent

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

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

VITA REPORT

Elinor Abrell (301-831-8753)

The NARFE #409 sponsored Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) group has completed another busy and successful season working with senior citizens and low/moderate income persons in Frederick County. Sixteen volunteers working at five sites throughout the county completed 1,045 federal as well as 1,045 state tax returns, in spite of interruptions that occurred due to winter weather and a nasty virus that hit some volunteers. A conservative estimate is that this volunteer program saved these taxpayers approximately \$157,000 in fees that otherwise might have been paid for the same service from professional preparers. Volunteers recently gathered for a post-season celebratory lunch, and can now relax and do other things until early November when we start preparing for next year. Inquiries about our service

are always welcome, and there is always a need for more volunteer. Please contact Elinor Abrell for more information at 301-831-8753.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jerie O'Connor (301-845-7964)

BALANCE as of March 31, 2014.....\$7,402.05
 Receipts for April.....\$1,542.08
 Expenditures for April (\$1,848.07)
TOTAL FUNDS available as of 4- 30-2014...\$7,096.06

CHARITY REPORT

Ruth Davis (301-874-1997)

May 2014	50/50	\$55
May 2014	Alzheimer's Raffle	\$63
May Donations		<u>\$30</u>
	Total	\$148

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: June 20, 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: Fried chicken

Program: Frederick County Land Preservation Program

We must receive your mail reservation or cancellation no later than Friday June 13, 2014.

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

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

Reservations for June 20, 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, June 13, 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

JUNE 2014

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JUNE 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</i>	Vacant		<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>VP-Membership</i>	Vacant		<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>	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			