



# The Key Notes

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

June 2018  
Newsletter

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## CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

**Elinor Abrell (301-831-8753)**

### ELECTION SEASON HEATS UP

Primary season is now underway, giving voters their chance to choose the candidates who will run in November elections. This year, 2018, is not an ordinary midterm-election year. What is at stake is control of Congress and statehouses across our deeply divided nation for the second half of President Trump's first term of office.

The balance of power in both houses of Congress, as well as in many state legislatures and governorships, will be decided in November. However, in order to get on a ballot in November, a candidate must first win in a primary election. These 2018 midterm elections are probably the most important in many years and may well determine whether Republicans, and President Trump especially, will be able to get their top priorities through Congress. It is critically important for voters to scrutinize candidates' positions on topics of major importance. For seniors, these include Social Security, Medicare, cost of prescription drugs, to name a few.

In the last midterm election in 2014, the largest single voting bloc was citizens over age 60, accounting for 39.4% of all voters. Candidates need to listen to and engage with this bloc, now more informed than ever.

- All 435 seats in the House of Representatives are up for election. Currently, Republicans control the House by a margin of 238 to 193 (with four vacancies)
- Of the 100 U.S. Senate seats, 35 are up for election. Republicans now control the Senate, 51 to 49.
- Governors will be chosen in 36 states. Currently there are 26 governorships held by Republicans, nine by Democrats, and one by an independent.
- Thousands of state-level senators and representatives will be voted into or out of office as well. State leaders elected this fall will influence how district lines are drawn for the U.S. House and state legislatures after the Census of 2020.

These facts depict just how important the midterm

elections are. Do your homework, listen to what candidates have to say, and make your choices wisely. The Maryland primary election is June 26. *Every single vote counts, make sure your voice is heard!*

## ALZHEIMER'S REPORT

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

You are invited to attend a presentation on:

### Updates in Alzheimer's Policy and Research

Alzheimer's and related dementias research is a dynamic field, and momentum builds each year. Hear about major advancement in Alzheimer's and related dementias research toward our vision of a world without Alzheimer's.

*Featuring:* Cass Naugle, Executive Director, Alzheimer's Association, Greater Maryland Chapter June 6, 2018 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Mount Airy Public Library, 705 Ridge Ave, Mt Airy, MD 21771

The program is free but registration is required. To register, please email [mnaugle@alz.org](mailto:mnaugle@alz.org) or call 410-561-9099 ext 202 or ext 204

## NARFE NATIONAL ELECTION

**Elinor Abrell (301-831-8753)**

The June issue of *narfe* magazine contains the official ballot for NARFE members to vote for National President and National Secretary/Treasurer. (Candidate profiles can be found in the March *narfe* magazine.) Region 2 Vice President has just one candidate, so there is no voting for that office, with regional voting restricted to actual residents. Also appearing on the ballot are a number of Bylaws Amendments and Resolutions that have been proposed, with voting recommendations to either adopt or reject. Details of these can be found in the election section of the June *narfe* magazine as well as on the [narfe.org](http://narfe.org) website under 2018 balloting information.

The Maryland Federation of NARFE Chapters

designated a committee to review the 184 pages of documentation for all of these proposals. After careful consideration of each item on the ballot, the MD Federation has its own recommendations, marked on the ballot shown below. To see the rationale behind MD Federation’s recommendation to either adopt or reject, go to: <https://sites.google.com/site/narfe409/> Please review the special election section in the June *narfe* magazine; note the voting instructions. You may vote by using the paper mail-in ballot or going online. All ballots must be received by June 30. NARFE now has the policy of one member, one vote, as opposed to past years when voting was done by chapter. Your vote is important!

MARYLAND FEDERATION OF NARFE CHAPTERS  
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROPOSED BYLAWS AND RESOLUTIONS

**Bylaws and Resolutions**

Proposals Recommended by the  
Bylaws and Resolutions Committee for Adoption

ADOPT ALL  **OR** VOTE ON ITEMS INDIVIDUALLY BELOW

1802	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reject	1824	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reject
1803	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopt	<input type="checkbox"/> Reject	BC01	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reject
1804	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopt	<input type="checkbox"/> Reject	BC02	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopt	<input type="checkbox"/> Reject
1805	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopt	<input type="checkbox"/> Reject	BC03	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reject
1811	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reject	BCR-01	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopt	<input type="checkbox"/> Reject
1818	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopt	<input type="checkbox"/> Reject	NEB01	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reject

Proposals Recommended by the  
Bylaws and Resolutions Committee for Rejection

REJECT ALL  **OR** VOTE ON ITEMS INDIVIDUALLY BELOW

1801	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reject	1826	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reject
1807	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopt	<input type="checkbox"/> Reject	1827	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopt	<input type="checkbox"/> Reject
1808	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reject	1828	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reject
1809	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reject	1829	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reject
1813	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopt	<input type="checkbox"/> Reject	1840R	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reject
1819	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reject	1846R	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reject
1820	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopt	<input type="checkbox"/> Reject			

**Ballot Questions**

1. Preferential voting  YES  NO
2. Articles of incorporation  YES  NO
3. National Secretary/Treasurer salary  YES  NO

**LEGISLATIVE**

**David Carmack (240-578-4965)**

As reported in an earlier edition of THE KEY NOTES, the President in his budget for fiscal 2019 recommended a pay freeze for federal employees for 2019 and a cut in earned federal pay and benefits. Unless Congress opposes the President’s pay freeze for federal employees, it will happen. His other proposals require Congressional approval. Early in May, Office of

Personnel Management Director, Jeff Pon, sent a letter to Congress in support of the President’s budget proposal to cut earned federal pay and benefits. Pon urged Congress to eliminate the FERS annuity, to change the way federal annuities are calculated by basing pensions on the average highest five years of pay instead of the highest three years (the current rule), to increase FERS employee contributions to their annuities with no corresponding increase in benefits, and to reduce or eliminate cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) for current and future retirees. Under the last proposal, FERS retirees COLAs would be eliminated and Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) COLAs would be reduced by 0.5 percent. NARFE urges its members to contact their senators and representatives to oppose the changes as they affect both current federal employees and retired federal employees.

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

**Dennis Vernon (301-694-8003)**

Please welcome David Fiske and Michaela Saccoccio who have transferred to our chapter from another NARFE chapter. Welcome back, Karen Ann Croyle-Fischer and Carl Thayer who have their membership reinstated. Two members have had their membership dropped by NARFE Headquarters for non-renewal and they are: David Howell and John F. Kennedy (what a wonderful name to have). If you pay your national dues of \$40 and your chapter dues of \$9, your membership will be reinstated.

One of the derivative benefits of chapter membership is receiving *The Key Notes* Newsletter containing useful information such as pending legislative actions that may impact our federal benefits, as well as, NARFE and chapter activities. Apparently, some members wish to continue to enjoy our Newsletter at no expense (without paying their chapter dues) after relocating as they left forwarding addresses to places like Florida, Texas, Colorado, etc. Conversely, some members have passed away and we suspect that someone else is enjoying the Newsletter articles. All total, there are approximately 140 Newsletters being sent out every month to people that have not paid their chapter dues of \$9. In all fairness and as a heads-up, we are in the process of sending our notification letters to those individuals who receive our Newsletter but not listed by NARFE Headquarters as chapter members (paid their dues). NARFE dues forms are included in our correspondence so the recipient can make financial arrangements with

NARFE Headquarters to make payment and have their chapter membership get reinstated. Future Newsletters will **ONLY** be sent to dues-paying, Chapter 409 members. If you have any questions about the status of your membership and/or if your dues are paid, please contact **NARFE Headquarters at 1800-456-8410**

**MAY'S PROGRAM**



Ms. Danielle Gaines of the Frederick News-Post spoke to Chapter 409 members about legislative events and accomplishments in Annapolis. She provided updated information and answered members' questions.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**

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

The Executive Committee of NARFE Chapter 409 met on Tuesday, May 15, at the American Legion. The minutes were approved. The Treasurer's report was given and approved pending further audit. Legislative, Newsletter, Membership, Public Relations, Alzheimer's, and Luncheon reports were given. Planning for programs for 2018-2019 was begun. Please give a Committee member any suggestions for future programs.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

**Jerie O'Connor (301-845-7964)**

BALANCE as of March 31, 2018..... \$4,673.56  
 Receipts for April..... \$1,603.34  
 Expenditures for April..... (\$1,203.80)  
 TOTAL FUNDS available as of 3-31-2018... \$5,071.10

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

**Members**

None Reported

**Relatives of 409 Members**

**Richard Blickenstaff**, age 75, died May 11, 2018. He is survived by member **Barbara Blickenstaff**.

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

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

**Date: June 15, 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:** Fried Chicken

**Program:** Karen Nicklas, Executive Assistant, The Great Frederick Fair.

We must receive your mail reservation or cancellation no later than Friday **June 8, 2018.**

**MAILING ADDRESS: NARFE Chapter #409, 4006 Carriage Hill Dr., Frederick, MD 21704**

**Reservations for, June 15, 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, 4006 Carriage Hill Dr. Frederick, MD 21704**

We need to reserve the number of meals by Friday, June 8, 2018 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: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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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.

**JUNE 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**

- June 15** Chapter 409 Executive Committee Meeting (Change this month only)  
9:30 AM at American Legion (Same location as our luncheon)  
All are welcome to come.
- June 18** Chapter 409 Luncheon
- June 11-12** Region II Training Academy
- August 26-28** FEDcon18, NARFE's National Conference  
Hyatt Regency, Jacksonville, Florida