



The Key Notes

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

March 2019
Newsletter

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**NARFE Chapter 409 Luncheon
Friday, March 15th Doors open 11:00 a.m.**

Dr. Gary Roundtree and Dr. Sudha Haley,

**President and 1st Vice President respectively, of
the Maryland Federation of NARFE**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Elinor Abrell (301-831-8753)

Chapter 409 is pleased to welcome this month two special guests: Dr. Gary Roundtree and Dr. Sudha Haley, President and 1st Vice President respectively, of the Maryland Federation of NARFE. Both Dr. Roundtree and Dr. Haley are huge advocates for the interests of NARFE members and work diligently to ensure that our voices are heard by elected officials at both state and national levels. They especially like to focus on educating and empowering retirees to deal with both opportunities and challenges they may face. Dr. Roundtree and Dr. Haley have made it their mission over the past year to visit all 28 Maryland chapters, calling this a "Chapter Spotlight Tour", to bring the message of what NARFE is actively doing to promote and protect the federal employee and retiree. In addition they want to hear back from chapter members, their thoughts and suggestions, what they see as concerns and future priorities, and perhaps some ways to find solutions. What they seek to gain from this visit is some insight for the future of the Maryland Federation, what should be the mission, focus, and priorities to pursue for real and sustainable improvements. Chapter 409 members, come, listen, and participate!

There are two long years (almost) and lots of politics ahead until the 2020 elections. One way to stay informed and vigilant about what is going on in the Maryland legislature, now in session, is to use the website of the MD Federation, really now a simple task. First, google "MD NARFE" and click on the "Maryland Federation of NARFE." Then, in the upper right corner click on "Legislative-State Page." You will then have access to an abundance of information on legislative issues. If you wish to make your thoughts known to your elected officials in Annapolis, use the link "What you can do about it." This will enable you to directly contact your officials and leads you through several ways to do so, even providing a sample letter that could be used. Remember that there is power in numbers and numbers (voters) matter to legislators. Use your voice to protect your interests and try this process....it is really user friendly.

LEGISLATIVE David Carmack (240-578-4965)

The threat of another federal government shutdown appears to have receded for the time being as lawmakers line up behind a legislative compromise to fund fully the federal government, a compromise that the President may accept. But the threat to federal government operations will occur later this Congressional session when the Congress and the President must agree to raise the debt ceiling. The legislation to fund fully the federal government also includes a pay raise for federal civilian employees for the calendar year 2019 of 1.9 percent. This action overrides the pay freeze put in place by the President.

On February 7, 2019, a bill, known as the FAIR ACT, was reintroduced in the House to provide a 3.6 percent boost to federal pay in calendar year 2020 in order to close the growing gap between federal and private sector pay and to stave off the possibility of another pay freeze in 2020.

At the State level, there is still no resolution as to whether the computation of the state income tax will be decoupled from the computation of the federal income tax so that a taxpayer could claim the standard deduction in computing federal income tax and itemize deductions in computing state income tax.

FEBRUARY LUNCHEON SPEAKER



At our February luncheon, Lanessa Hill, Chief, Public Affairs Office at Fort Detrick (left), spoke about the history of Fort Detrick, the various organizations and missions currently located there, and the installation's relationship to the Frederick community. Also pictured is chapter president Elinor Abrell.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT Mary Lou Blessing (240-651-1865)

2019-2020 Nominating Committee Status Report for March 2019

This is a status report, from the Nominating Committee, on Chapter Officers for the June 2019 – May 2020 term. We would appreciate a call from you if you might be willing to discuss taking one of the vacant positions or have a good idea of someone (preferably with their permission) whom we might invite to take a position on the Executive Committee. Please contact Mary Lou Blessing, Committee Chair at 240-651-1865 or ml.blessing@comcast.net.

Slate of Chapter Officers

1st Vice Pres. Membership Dennis Vernon
2nd Vice Pres. Legislative David Carmack
Recording Secretary Margaret Hawker
Treasurer Jerie O'Connor
Luncheon Reservations Gale Vernon & Carolyn Francis
Chaplain Earle L. Browning
Service Officer Chuck Caloia
Immediate Past Pres. Kathy Siggins
Member-at- Large Linda Adams
Member-at- Large Scott Darby
Member-at- Large Kathy Siggins
Member-at- Large Walter Rabbitt
Member-at- Large Vicki Yanez

Chapter Positions remaining vacant

President
Corresponding Secretary
Assistant Chaplain
Newsletter Editor
Member-at-Large

We will be voting on a proposed slate of Officers at the April luncheon meeting, with the installation of the Officers taking place in May. A special thank you to those new people who do step up and say yes to participating in the leadership of this chapter.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Margaret Hawker (301-874-8409)

No report due to weather

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jerie O'Connor (301-845-7964)

No report due to weather.

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

Members

Lucian Falconer, Jr., age 86, died February 7, 2019. He was the husband of the late **Neeta Ellen Falconer**.

Relatives of 409 Members

None Reported

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, Joe Shrader, Donald and Nadia Taylor
Please contact Gil Monck (1-717-762-7484) with any information for this section of the newsletter.

Help....

We need your help. As hard as we have tried, we are sure there are some members (or their spouses) who are ill, in the hospital or have passed away and have not been acknowledged in the Chapter newsletter. So, if you know of someone who should be included in a future Chaplain's report: they have become ill, are in the hospital or have passed away. Just let the chapter Chaplain know that information, either by email or a phone call. For contact information, check the Chaplain's Report in the monthly Newsletter. Your help would be much appreciated.

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: **March 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: Spaghetti with meat balls (Separate) and sauce and salad

Program: **President and 1st Vice President of the Maryland Federation of NARFE**

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

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

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

Reservations for March 15, 2019 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, March 8, 2019 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
2458 Five Shilling Rd.
Frederick, MD 21701
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

MARCH 2019

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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.

MARCH 2019 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 2019

- March 12** Chapter 409 Executive Committee Meeting
10:00 AM at American Legion (Same location as our luncheon)
All are welcome to come.
- March 15** Chapter 409 Luncheon
- March 10-13** National Legislative Training Conference-LEGcon 19
- May 5-7** Maryland Federation Biennial Conference, Ocean City