



Next luncheon / meeting is on Tuesday, March 8 at 11:00 AM

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President's Message (Elinor Abrell • 301-831-8753)

March is NARFE-PAC month. As you know, this is the Political Action Committee arm of NARFE, with March as the focus month of raising funds. The midterm election year has arrived with the prospect of a new Congress. All 435 seats in the House of Representatives and 34 Senate seats are up for election. All Maryland state delegate seats are up for election, as well. Therefore, it is more important than ever to support NARFE-PAC, which then enables NARFE to effectively continue its mission to protect and advance the earned pay and benefits of Federal employees, retirees, and annuitants. The PAC works for you by building strong nonpartisan relationships with lawmakers who support this Federal community, doing so through campaign financial support and the backing of members – numbers really do count! The March issue of *NARFE* magazine will feature NARFE-PAC information along with a contribution form. NARFE-PAC information is always available on NARFE's website, <https://www.narfe.org/lp/donate/>. Usually there is a NARFE-PAC direct mail solicitation in March, as well. All contributions to NARFE-PAC are voluntary from NARFE members only, and are totally separate from the finances of NARFE. If you have not already done so, please send your contribution – think of it as an investment in your future.

The program for March features as speaker Kathy Schey, Director of Frederick County Senior Services Division. Even though the building is still COVID closed to the public, there are numerous services offered and available to county seniors.

Thank you, each and every person on the slate of officers for the coming 2022-23 year. Thank you for stepping up to help with the work of the Chapter. Thank you, Chuck Caloia and the Nominating Committee for taking on the task of putting this slate together. Floor nominations can be made at the March meeting, voting will occur at the April meeting, and installation of officers will take place at the May meeting. Chapter members, please know that there are numerous small committee jobs that need to be filled, and the Executive Committee may come calling for your help here!

Chapter 409 has for 30+ years sponsored the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, with trained volunteer preparers doing Federal and state tax returns at no cost to seniors and persons of low/moderate income. Prior to COVID this service was offered at several sites in Frederick County, but now it is available on a limited basis at two locations only. (The former Frederick Senior Center was one of the past sites.) The VITA volunteer preparers welcome inquiries from any person eligible for this service; the program follows very strict IRS regulations, and there is an income cap. Please call Elinor Abrell for more information. Appointment times are available.

Legislative Report (David Carmack • 240-578-4965)

Congress has passed a continuing resolution to fund the Government for the current Fiscal Year at Fiscal Year 2021 levels until March 11, 2022. The House of Representatives has passed the NARFE-supported version of the Postal Service Reform Act of 2022, H.R. 3076, with strong bipartisan support. This bill protects the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) program premiums for Federal employees and retirees and creates a new parallel Postal Service Health Benefits program for postal workers and retirees with the same benefits as the FEHB program but with its own

premium structure. The bill will require new postal retirees to enroll in Medicare by their 65th birthday. That bill has been introduced in the Senate, but Senator Rick Scott (R-FL) has objected to its expedited consideration. The Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs has favorably reported two NARFE-endorsed bills to the full Senate – The Honoring Civil Servants Killed in the Line of Duty Act (S. 3487) and The Chance to Compete Act (S. 3423). S. 3487 would increase the compensation to survivors of Federal employees who have died in the line of duty from \$10,000 set in the 1990s to \$100,000 and would increase the Government's payment for funeral expenses from \$800 set in the 1960s to \$8,800. S. 3423 would change how Federal agencies evaluate job applicants and would make the Federal job application process more efficient. Both bills have bipartisan support.

Chaplain's Report (Earle Browning • 301-831-5355)

NARFE member Betty Potts passed away on February 14, 2022. Please click [here](#) to view Betty's obituary.

The following are the names of our shut-ins: Betty Brewer; Ruth Davis; Richard and Lynn McKnight; Kathy Kusel Patrick; and Tom and Delores Wiley. Please let the Chaplain know if there are other shut-ins.

God Bless everyone.

Report of the Nominating Committee

(Chuck Caloia, Chair • 301-938-2000)

The Chapter 409 Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following slate of nominees for chapter officers. Asterisks (*) identify incumbents. The nominees are:

President: Elinor Abrell*

1st Vice President (Membership): Dan Grauman

2nd Vice President (Legislation): David Carmack*

Corresponding Secretary: Vicki Yanez*

Recording Secretary: Margaret Hawker*

Treasurer: Kathy O'Connor

Chaplain: Earle Browning*

Assistant Chaplain: Margaret Clark

Service Officer: Chuck Caloia*

Newsletter Editor: Dan Grauman*

The six Members-At-Large:

Linda Adams*, Scott Darby*, Pam Ogasawara*, Walter Rabbit*, J.D. Brooks, and Jeanine Young

The position of Immediate Past President is held by Kathy Siggins*.

Financial Report (Kathy O'Connor • 301-845-7964)

Balance available to Chapter 409 as of Jan 20, 2022 \$6,600.71

• Income \$296.66

• Expenses \$132.50

Balance available to Chapter 409 as of Feb 20, 2022 \$6,764.87

Frederick Chapter 409, Inc. of NARFE
2458 Five Shillings Road
Frederick, MD 21701

March 2022

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March 2022 Newsletter

NARFE Chapter No. 409 • Frederick, Maryland

NARFE Chapter 409 luncheons take place at the Golden Corral Buffet & Grill
5621 Spectrum Drive • Frederick, MD 21703 • Phone: 301-662-5922

2022 luncheon schedule • buffet starts at 11:00 AM, program starts at 12:30 PM

If you have not been fully vaccinated, or if you are not feeling well on the day of the luncheon, please do not attend.

Boosters are now available and encouraged but are not required for luncheon attendance.

Date	Speaker	Presentation Title
Mar 8	Kathy Schey, Director, Frederick County Senior Services Division	Services available to Frederick County senior citizens
Apr 12	David Campbell, Beekeeper	Pollinator Habitat and what you can do to help
May 10	Dr. Mark Kortepeter, author of the book "Inside the Hot Zone"	Dr. Kortepeter was in charge of the Fort Detrick lab, where they work with bacteria like anthrax and viruses like Ebola. Learn more about the book at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rOk0qjrovcw
Jun 14	BINGO	BINGO

Dues payments and gifts or contributions to NARFE are NOT deductible as charitable contributions for Federal Income Tax purposes.