



The Key Notes

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

November 2014
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

With Election Day right around the corner I want to encourage everyone, to use every means possible, to go out to the polls and vote for your candidates of choice. As my husband always says, "If you don't vote, you can't complain." Well, I have a lot to complain about. Pay freezes, sequestration, furloughs, constant threats to cut our earned benefits, and rising costs of healthcare, just to name a few. The purpose of our Forums in September and October were to give you, the voter, an opportunity to meet and hear from the candidates. The questions asked were composed by board members and provided to all candidates in advance of their respective forum. Also, please refer to the October issue of the *narfe* magazine which includes NARFE's 113th Congress Scorecard. The insert shows how members of Congress voted on NARFE's priority legislation during this Congress. The scorecard also includes a life-time voting records. The choice now, is yours.

I have good news for those of you who are working hard to recruit new NARFE members. In addition to extending the membership drive through December 31, the Maryland Federation will match the \$10 that NARFE Headquarters is offering. That's a total of \$20 for each new member, current OR retired, that you can recruit from September 1st thru December 31st. In addition, recruiters will be entered into a drawing for a Kindle Fire tablet, one chance per each new member recruited. The recruiter's ID number must be on the application to qualify. Applications must be postmarked, and calls or website joins must be received, by the Dec. 31 deadline. For more details, go to www.narfe.org, log in and click on the Membership Drive banner on the NARFE home page.

The Office of Personnel Management announced the

average Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) premium increase will be 3.2 percent in 2015, with the average employee and retiree share increasing 3.8 percent. Open Season runs from November 10 – December 8, 2014. We are pleased to announce that our guest speaker for November will be Mr. Bill Gray, Account Manager, FEHBP Account Management & OPM Relations. Mr. Gray tends to be more popular than our fried chicken so please make your reservations early and please remember to bring a friend.

REMINDER Congressman Chris Van Hollen will host his 12th annual FEHB forums in cooperation with NARFE on Monday morning, November 17th from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. at the Holiday Park Senior Center, 3950 Ferrara Drive, Wheaton, MD 20906 and Wednesday evening, November 19th from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. at the Executive Office Building, 101 Monroe Street, Rockville, MD 20850.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Kathy Siggins (301-829-2462)

Before adjourning for the elections, the House and Senate passed a short-term continuing resolution (CR) to keep the government operating at current levels until December 11. Congress will return on November 12, a week after the November 4 elections, for a lame-duck session to pass another CR to get us into the New Year and the new Congress. Two issues that may come up during the lame duck session. The first is the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The House version of the NDAA (H.R. 4435) includes an amendment added by Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-VA) that would extend the re-employed annuitants authority for another five years. This authority allows federal agency heads to rehire federal annuitants on a limited and part-time basis without a salary offset. Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), who introduced the original legislation five years ago, said that she will

introduce a similar amendment to the Senate version of the NDAA. This is expected to pass during the lame duck session. Any currently re-hired annuitant, should not be impacted by the expiration of the provision at the end of the month.

The second issue is the Senate Postal Reform legislation (S. 1486). Senator Tom Carper (D-DE) is working with his colleagues to find a compromise on the legislation so that a vote can be held during the lame duck session. NARFE opposes this legislation.

The new congress will most likely include some new budget debates. This message was confirmed by Representative Steny Hoyer (D-MD), the Minority Whip in the House, in a recent meeting with the Maryland Federation. He reminded NARFE members that sequestration will come back next year and the budget debate will begin as early as January or February. NARFE has to be ready.

On October 24th our chapter sponsored a forum for candidates for the 6th & 8th Congressional Districts. Both candidates for the 6th District, Congressman John Delaney and challenger Dan Bongino were able to participate. For the 8th District Congressman Chris Van Hollen's Chief of Staff, Bill Parsons participated, as planned, but challenger Dave Wallace was unable to come. Ted Jensen, Past Chapter President and Past MD Federation President, moderated in his usual congenial manner. The following questions were asked of all participants.

1. NARFE represents both retired and currently active Federal employees. Both groups would be impacted if the two year hold on sequestration is not extended. What is your position on allowing sequestration to again become the "law of the land"?

2. There is concern within many groups, not just retired Federal employees, concerning the proposals to modify the current method of calculating the Cost of Living Index. Please explain which of the three options (CPI-E, Chained CPI, or current CPI-W) you would support and why.

3. What communications format (social media, public forums, conference calls, letters, emails, phone calls) would you find most effective in communicating with your constituents? How would you use these inputs to determine your position?

4. The partisanship in the Congress reflects many things including the political divide within the citizenry and some political "shenanigans". This has tended to produce a so-called "do-nothing Congress". What options are there to promote better governance?

If you are interested in a more complete account, including candidate responses, see the chapter's website at <https://sites.google.com/site/narfe409/>

ALZHEIMER'S REPORT

Kathy Siggins (301-829-2462)

The Alzheimer's Association "Walk to End Alzheimer's" was a huge success raising \$155,000 by walk day. However, funds are expected to go up as pledges continue to come in. Nearly 1,000 walkers participated in Frederick to walk in honor of those living with Alzheimer's and in memory of loved ones lost to this horrible disease. The Association's goal is \$200,000 by the end of November which is National Alzheimer's Awareness Month.

The 2014 Western Maryland Dementia Conference will be held Wednesday, November 12, 2014, from 8 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at Mount St. Mary's University, Frederick Conference Center, 5350 Spectrum Drive, Frederick, MD 21703. Contact the Alzheimer's Association at 301-696-0315 for more information and registration.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Walt Rabbit (301-865-5255)

In September we had one new member, Marge Shiflett, and two reinstatements, John Hurley and Joseph Mangiafico. Welcome to "y'all".

We also had one member who passed away - Angelo Ferruzza.

Unfortunately five members were dropped for not renewing their membership - Mary Brockway, Dave Katz, Mary Schmidt, Dennis Smith and Ronald Greenberg. If you know any of these people perhaps your contact with them might get them to renew their membership in NARFE. PLEASE HELP!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR VITA PROGRAM

Elinor Abrell, VITA Coordinator (301-831-8753)

VITA still needs volunteers. As mentioned last month the Frederick VITA group last year did approximately 1,100 federal and state returns at five sites. If you think you may be interested and have the time to commit, please contact Elinor Abrell, VITA Site Coordinator, at abrellem@comcast.net or 301-831-8753.

CHARITY REPORT

Ruth Davis (301-874-1997)

October 2014	50/50	\$42
October 2014	Alzheimer's Raffle	\$59
October 2014	Alzheimer's Donation	<u>\$10</u>
	Total	\$111

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Margaret Hawker (301-874-8409)

The Executive Committee of NARFE Chapter 409 met on October 21 at the American Legion. The minutes and the treasurer's report were approved. Legislative, Newsletter, Service, and Chaplain reports were given. Unfinished Business and New Business was reported and discussed. All were urged to attend the upcoming Maryland Federation Training Day.

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

Members

John Harding Sr., 76 years old, died September 23, 2014, Widow is Carole Harding of Middletown.

Harry Winpigler, 88 years old, died October 8, 2014, his wife of 60 years died February 09, 2014.

Relatives of 409 Members

Joan Deibler, 77 years old, died October 18, 2014.

She was wife of 58 years of 409 member Donald R. Deibler of Walkersville.

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

Peg Bourland, Betty Chase, Joyce Gregoire, Kathy Kusel, Gil Monck, Irene Owens, Dorothy Piper, Ann Simon, Sisty Vincent.

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 August 31, 2014.....	\$6,086.01
Receipts for September.....	\$1,627.80
Expenditures for September	(\$1,939.78)
TOTAL FUNDS available as of 6-30-2014.....	<u>\$5,774.03</u>

The correct figures for August 2014 should have been: Receipts - \$335.04 and Expenditures - \$319.60.

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.

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.

Date: November 21, 2014

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: Turkey dinner

Program: Federal Employee Health Benefit Program
We must receive your mail reservation or cancellation no later than Friday November 14, 2014.

Call **Kathy Kusel 1-202-264-0892** with any questions.
MAILING ADDRESS: 4006 Carriage Hill Dr., Frederick, MD 21704

Reservations for November 21, 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, November 14, 2014 so PLEASE MAIL AS EARLY AS YOU CAN.

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

NOVEMBER 2014

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NOVEMBER 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, 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			