



The Key Notes

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

President: Elinor Abrell • 301-831-8753 • abrellem@comcast.net

Editor: Dan Grauman • 301-806-5999 • dangrauman@gmail.com
2471 Five Shillings Road, Frederick, MD 21701

NARFE Chapter 409 Luncheon

Friday, October 25 (4th Friday) • Doors open 11:00 AM

Menu: Meatloaf with mashed potatoes & gravy, and salad

Program: Literacy Council of Frederick County

Speaker: Jennifer Szabo

other carriers will be present, as well. While we welcome members and guests to join us for lunch, anyone may come just to hear the presentation.

Note: The October luncheon is on the **4th Friday (Oct. 25)!**

<< *President's Message* >>

Elinor Abrell • 301-831-8753

It's official: we are now in the autumnal season. In our part of the world we are able to enjoy all four seasons, usually with only minimal weather extremes. Thankfully we don't have the devastating forest fires seen elsewhere in our country and around the world, nor have we been struck by nature's extreme hurricanes. Soon we will be able to take pleasure in the beauty of the changing colors of fall foliage.

This month's program features the Literacy Council of Frederick County. The ability to read, write, and speak English well is fundamental to work, prosperity, health, and family stability. Just imagine if you lacked these skills and the impact it would have on your life. The LCFC has as its mission to teach adults the reading and English language skills they need to provide for their families, and to contribute to the economical and social well-being of our community.

When was the last time you checked the NARFE website? Along with the NARFE "rebranding" currently underway, the website has been updated to make it easily accessed, immediately opening to NARFE Home. It's in a newspaper kind of format with headlined articles of topics, a sentence or two of synopsis, and a link to continue reading. As Congress is now back in session, much of the coverage refers to actions (or no actions) taking place there.

Don't forget the NARFE Recruiting Campaign, from now to December 31. Have you noticed that NARFE membership is on a downward trend, and that some chapters have either ended or combined with another chapter? Perhaps you have a friend, acquaintance, neighbor, or former coworker who is/was a Federal employee and not at all aware of NARFE and the benefits it offers. Promote NARFE to that person. Have some NARFE pamphlets that you can easily hand out whenever you meet a prospective member. As an incentive, a newly recruited member brings with it a reward of \$20 to the recruiter!

The November meeting features our important update on Federal health benefits. David Hurka from Blue Cross / Blue Shield will once again bring that information. Representatives from some

Chapter 409 Officers for 2019-2020

President • Elinor Abrell • 301-831-8753

1st VP, Membership • Dennis Vernon • 301-694-8003

2nd VP, Legislative • David Carmack • 240-578-4965

Corresponding Secretary • Vicki Yanez • 301-662-7018

Recording Secretary • Margaret Hawker • 301-874-8409

Treasurer • Jerie O'Connor • 301-845-7964

Luncheon Reservations • Gale Vernon • 301-694-8003

• Carolyn Francis • 301-831-6285

Chaplain • Earle Browning • 301-831-5355

Service Officer • Chuck Caloia • 301-938-2000

Immediate Past President • Kathy Siggins • 301-829-2462

Newsletter Editor • Dan Grauman • 301-806-5999

Members-at-Large

Linda Adams • 301-253-4740

Gene Bennett • 301-351-7396

Scott Darby • 301-662-7123

Pam Ogasawara • 301-874-2249

Walter Rabbit • 301-798-3362

Kathy Siggins • 301-829-2462

Chapter Positions remaining vacant

Assistant Chaplain

<< *Legislative Report* >>

David Carmack • 240-578-4965

President Trump has recently announced his willingness to implement a 2.6 percent Federal employee pay raise for 2020. This represents a reversal of his recommendation of no pay raise in his proposed budget for fiscal year 2020. As the proposed 2.6 percent raise lags behind recent private sector pay increases, NARFE continues to support the 3.1 per cent average pay raise approved by the House of Representatives in July, which includes a locality pay adjustment.

The Senate has confirmed Dale Cabaniss as director of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). NARFE supported this confirmation. As mentioned in prior issues of THE KEY NOTES, President Trump plans to reorganize OPM and transfer

certain functions to the Executive Office of the President, the General Services Administration or the Office of Management and Budget. NARFE strongly opposes this action. The House of Representatives has passed the fiscal year 2020 Financial Service and General Appropriation bill, H.R. 3351, denying funds for the administration's reorganization plans and bars the administration from laying off OPM employees. The Senate has taken no action. To move this legislation along, the House has also approved it as an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The Senate version of the NDAA does not include this amendment.

The House also intends to include as an amendment to the NDAA a provision to provide Federal employees with 12 weeks of paid leave following the birth or adoption of a child. This provision is also in a stand-alone bill. Rep. Kevin Brady, R-TX, recently introduced The Equal Treatment of Public Servants Act to provide some relief to civil servants financially punished by the Windfall Elimination Provisions (WEP). The WEP reduces Social Security benefits of local, state and Federal retirees who worked in Social Security covered employment and who also receive government annuities from their non-Social Security government employment. This bill will not completely repeal the reductions of WEP for these retirees. NARFE supports this bill as a step in the right direction.

In June, a group of Republican Congressmen and Senators sponsored bills that would, *inter alia*, expedite procedures for disciplinary actions, including terminations, taken against Federal employees. The bills would expedite the time in which appeals might be taken to the Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) and the time within which the MSPB has to make a ruling. Failure of the MSPB to act within that time period would mean that the disciplinary action would be final. This bill would effectively eliminate any review of the disciplinary action because the MSPB has had no members since March 1, 2019.

<< Meet Rep. Jamie Raskin >>
Kathy Siggins • 301-829-2462

Chapter 409, Frederick, will host a joint meeting with Chapter 2306, Carroll County/Westminster with Representative Jamie Raskin, Congressional District 8, from 1:30 – 2:30 PM on Friday, October 11 at the Mount Airy Branch Library, 705 Ridge Avenue, Mt. Airy, MD 21771. The large room at the library has been reserved from 1:00 – 3:00 PM with light refreshments available. This is a great opportunity for members of both chapters to meet with Mr. Raskin to share some concerns about Federal issues such as a more accurate way to calculate COLAs for seniors and FERS retirees, and Postal Reform. He is a cosponsor of The Fair COLA for Seniors Act, H.R. 1553 and The Equal COLA Act, H.R. 1254, and is a strong supporter of the Federal community. Many thanks to Dave Pyatt, Chapter 2306, for reserving the larger room at the library, which will accommodate 70 comfortably with standing room for 90 in a pinch. See you soon!

<< Alzheimer's Report >>
Kathy Siggins • 301-829-2462

NARFE is listed as a National Walk Team under Member of the Zenith Society supporting the full mission of the Alzheimer's Association, which includes care and support programs for

communities across the country. Starting in 2019, funds raised by NARFE through its national Walk team will count towards our national goal of \$14 million by the end of 2020 for the Alzheimer's cause.

26th Walk for Team HOPE, led by Kathy Siggins, Chapter 409 Frederick - The Western Maryland Walk to End Alzheimer's will be held at the Nymeo Field at Harry Grove Stadium in Frederick, MD on Sunday, October 13. Registration starts at 11:00 AM. Please join our team or consider making a donation to the Alzheimer's Association to sponsor me in the walk. Please know that all donations for the walk are tax-deductible as charitable contributions. Please visit www.alz.org and enter your ZIP Code to find the nearest walk to your location. Thank you!



Chapter 409 member Kathy Siggins (right), Alzheimer's Chair and leader of Team HOPE, accepts a donation from our chapter on behalf of the Alzheimer's Association. Our chapter supports the Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's. Team HOPE is a member of NARFE's National Walk to End Alzheimer's team and supports the full mission of the Alzheimer's Association: care, support and research. This year, the Western MD Walk to End Alzheimer's will be held on Oct. 13 at Nymeo Field at Harry Grove Stadium. To register, go to <http://act.alz.org/westernmdwalk>.

<< Membership Report >>
Dennis Vernon • 301-694-8003

The annual NARFE RECRUITING CAMPAIGN (membership drive) began on September 1 and goes to December 31, 2019.

During this timeframe, NARFE Headquarters will recognize each "Recruiter of a New NARFE Member" with a \$10 Reward and a Recruiter Pin. In addition, the Maryland NARFE Federation (that includes us) will award an additional \$10 to each Federation Recruiter. **In order to receive recognition as a Recruiter (and receive a cash award of \$20 for each new member), please ensure that your name and NARFE membership number are on any recruit membership applications submitted.**

NARFE Headquarters has also announced that they have revised the NARFE Logo and NARFE Slogan – "Each new NARFE member strengthens our message to Congress". As a result, NARFE magazine and other NARFE publications have been revised to reflect these changes. The good news is that our annual NARFE membership dues have not changed, so it remains as \$40 for national dues and \$9 for chapter dues. By the way, I'll have plenty of NARFE membership application forms (F-135), as well as, other NARFE publications (i.e. NARFE Bylaws; NARFE Dues Withholding; NARFE Life Membership) available for pickup at our luncheons. Also (in case you were wondering), you can find your NARFE membership number on your NARFE magazine address label as it is just above your name and it is the 8 digits right after the hash mark. (Be sure to write your name and membership number on the membership application forms.) One last item, if you have a change of address, please notify NARFE Headquarters by phone at 1-800-456-8410; or by email memberrecord@narfe.org, or go to www.narfe.org, log in and click on "Update My Record". Alternatively, you could let me know and I'll coordinate your address change with NARFE Headquarters for you.

<< Treasurer's Report >>

Jerie O'Connor • 301-845-7964

Balance as of June 30, 2019	\$4,098.62
July receipts	\$81.00
July expenses	\$132.20
Balance as of July 31, 2019	\$4,047.42
August receipts	\$504.00
August expenses	\$800.00
Total funds available as of August 31, 2019.....	\$3,751.42

<< Secretary's Report >>

Margaret Hawker • 301-874-8409

The Executive Committee of NARFE Chapter 409 met on Tuesday, September 17, 2019. The minutes for July were approved. The Treasurer's reports for July and August were given and approved. Legislative, Alzheimer's, Membership,

Newsletter, Service Officer, and Luncheon reports were given. There is a new NARFE logo which the Chapter will start using on our newsletter. There will be a combined meeting with the Carroll County chapter with Congressman Jamie Raskin on Friday, October 11, 1:30 – 2:30 PM at the Mt. Airy Library. All are welcome.

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

Members

William T. Soper – July 7, 2019
Tom Proctor – September 7, 2019

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, Ted Jensen, Howard Lutz,
Ann Niemiec, Annis Moran, Jaimie Pugh,
Joe Shrader, Donald & Nadia Taylor,
Gail Vernon, and Tom Wiley

Please contact Chaplain Earle Browning
301-831-5355 or earlebrowning@gmail.com
with any information for this section of the newsletter.

Date: October 25, 2019 – **4th Friday**
Location: American Legion, 1450 Taney Ave.,
Frederick, MD 21702
Time: Doors will open at **11:00 AM**
Lunch is served at **12 noon**
Program starts promptly at **1:00 PM**
Menu: Meatloaf with mashed potatoes & gravy, and salad
Program: Literacy Council of Frederick County
Speaker: Jennifer Szabo

We must receive your mail reservation or cancellation no later than **Friday, October 18, 2019**. Send to:

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

Questions? please call Gale Vernon • 301-694-8003

Reservations for October 25, 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 this form & check to **NARFE CHAPTER 409, P.O. Box 1716, Frederick, MD 21702**
We need to reserve the number of meals by **Friday, October 18, 2019**, so **PLEASE MAIL AS EARLY AS YOU CAN!**

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Telephone Number: _____

Frederick Chapter 409, Inc. of NARFE
2458 Five Shilling Rd.
Frederick, MD 21701
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

October 2019

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ORGANIZATION
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Please note that this month's luncheon will take place on the 4th Friday, October 25!

October 2019 Newsletter

NARFE Chapter No. 409 • Frederick, Maryland

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

2019-2020 CALENDAR

Luncheons take place on the 3rd Friday of the month with the exception of October. Doors open at 11:00 AM. Executive Committee meetings take place on Tuesday of the same week as the Luncheons. Meetings start at 10:00 AM. Everyone is invited to the Executive Committee meetings! Luncheons & Executive Committee meetings take place at the Francis Scott Key Post No. 11, American Legion, 1450 Taney Ave., Frederick, MD 21702.

Exec Comm Luncheon
Mtg Date Date

Luncheon Program Title & Speaker

10/22/19	10/25/19	Literacy Council of Frederick County: Jennifer Szabo – Note: this meeting is on the <u>4th Friday</u> .
11/12/19	11/15/19	FEHB Program, Blue Cross/Blue Shield: David Hurka
12/17/19	12/20/19	Civil War Medical Museum: Jake Wynn
1/14/20	1/17/20	Frederick Memorial Hospital – Your Balance, Don't Lose It: Yvonne Townsley
2/18/20	2/21/20	Frederick County Recycling Program: Rebecca Culler
3/17/20	3/20/20	University of MD Extension Service – Creating a Pollinator Habitat: David Campbell
4/14/20	4/7/20	Frederick County Government Senior Services Division: Kathy Schey
5/12/20	5/15/20	Frederick County Fire & Rescue Service – A Walk Through History: Chip Jewell
6/16/20	6/19/20	Bingo