



The Key Notes

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

September 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

I'd like to welcome everyone back from what seemed to be a very short summer. Our board has been working very hard to confirm our menu, as well as some interesting guest speakers for our 2014-2015 programs. I'm pleased to announce that Chapter 409 will be represented by four delegates at the National Convention, late August in Orlando, FL. I want to thank Betty and Ted Jensen and my dear husband, JD Brooks (Active Member) for attending with me. I am extremely grateful for their support, and for their commitment to help make NARFE a stronger organization for all of us, as we review the proposed changes, and vote on the Future of NARFE. I would also like to take this opportunity to extend a huge thank you to all the wonderful ladies who help out with the door prize tickets and our Alzheimer's bake table. In addition to our national goal to fund Alzheimer's research, monies raised by the sale of these tickets give us the opportunity to donate directly to local organizations that supports the senior population in our community. We are truly grateful for your participation in providing goodies for our bake table, and for purchasing lots of tickets. If you have any suggestions on how we can improve our fundraising efforts, please feel free to share with any member of our board. Now for our program this month: we are pleased to welcome Ms. Jan Gardner and Mr. Blaine Young, Frederick County's candidates for County Executive. Although the county doesn't have influence on NARFE issues, they do, however, have a large impact on all of us as citizens and taxpayers of Frederick County. Our moderator for this event will be Cliff Cumber, Editorial Page Editor for the Frederick News Post. You don't want to miss this one, so put it on your calendar, and please bring a friend.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Kathy Siggins (301-829-2462)

Following a five-week summer recess, Congress will return to session on September 8th. The NARFE Bill Tracker in your August magazine gives you the full list of legislation that NARFE is monitoring. Here are just a few:

Postal Reform - the Postal Service has been unable to unilaterally switch to 5-day delivery due to language in the Appropriations bills that require the Postal Service to maintain service at the 1983 level which includes 6-day delivery.

The Fair Act, H.R. 4306/S.2397 - introduced by Rep. Gerry Connolly, D-VA and Sen. Brian Schatz, D-HI, would provide a 3.3 percent pay raise to federal employees in 2015. However, the House and Senate Appropriations bills remain silent on this issue. If Congress does not take action on the pay increase, the President's proposed 1 percent increase will likely go into effect in January 2015.

The Smart Savings Act, H.R. 4193/S.2117 - The House passed the bipartisan legislation, which would shift the default fund of the TSP from the G Fund to the L Fund. Currently, new federal civilian employees have their TSP investments automatically placed in the G Fund, unless and until they elect otherwise. The Senate bill has been reported out of committee and is awaiting floor action.

Pension Contributions Hikes - H.R. 5338 introduced by Rep. Donna Edwards, D-MD, and cosponsored by Rep. Gerry Connolly, D-VA, - would repeal two separate increases on the amount federal workers must pay toward their pensions. A 2012 law to extend unemployment insurance forced employees hired in 2013 and those with less than five years of federal

experience to pay an additional 2.3 percent for a total of 3.1 percent of each paycheck toward their defined benefit. The 2013 budget agreement required all employees hired after 2013 and with less than five years of federal experience to pay a total of 4.4 percent of their salaries toward their Federal Employees Retirement Systems accounts.

ALZHEIMER'S REPORT

Kathy Siggins (301-829-2462)

Mr. Harry Johns, President and CEO of the Alzheimer's Association, will address our members at the National Convention to give us an overview as to how NARFE's investment (\$10,939,669.08 as of June 30th) in Alzheimer's research has been spent. Upcoming event: The Walk to End Alzheimer's will be held at the Maryland School for the Deaf on October 19, 2014. Registration is 1:00 p.m. and the Walk at 2:00 p.m. This is the largest fundraising event that the Alzheimer's Association does nationally to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support and research. Please join me and my family as we participate in our 21st walk, in memory of my late husband, and in honor of the 97,000 individuals living with Alzheimer's in Maryland.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Bill Elsen (301-663-4027)

Since the last newsletter (June), we have gained two new members, Jack Niemiec, an annuitant, and James Porter, an active federal employee. In addition, six lapsed members, Randy Massagee, Marlene Posey, Patricia Rice, Harold Stull, W. Webber, and Virginia Wilson, were reinstated. Five members were dropped for non-renewal of their membership. They are Charles Dwyer, Angelo Ferruzza, Constance Marcheski, Tommy Shedd, and Carol Smith. If you know any of these members please contact them and encourage them to re-join. Fourteen members, Ora Lee Ackerman, Sterling Adams, Joanne Baker, George Combs, Raymond Grubb, Frances Heaney, Esther Keyser, Frances Shober, Donald Smith, Ray Smith, Henry Tribble, Roger Wiley, William Williams, and Guinevere Winpighler, were listed as having passed away. In the category of New Prospective Members listed in the Chapter 409 Activity Report (M-112) by the National Office, there were twenty people who live

in Frederick County. I have already written to seven of them, inviting them to join our chapter and I will be writing invitations to the remaining 13. This gives us a net loss of 11 members. Hopefully we will get some of the 20 "New Prospective Members" to join us.

NOTICE: If your address, telephone number, or email addresses 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.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Margaret Hawker (301-874-8409)

The Chapter Executive Committee met on June 17, and July 15 at the American Legion. Reports were given. Menus and programs for 2014 – 2015 were planned. I hope you all have had a wonderful summer and look forward to seeing you in September.

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

Members

Raymond Branzell Jr., Age 80 years, Died May 24, 2014. Widow of 38 years is Dorothy Branzell of Union Bridge.

Esther Keyser, age 91, died May 27, 2014, no widower.

Mary Frances Shober, age 88, died May 28, 2014, no widower.

Charles E. Dwyer Jr., age 76, died June 4, 2014, no widow.

Donald C. Smith, age 87, died June 06, 2014, no widow.

Earl Charles William Bere Sr., age 97, died June 7, 2014. Widow is Margaret V. "Peggy" Bruchey Bere.

Charles John Apolenis, age 94, died June 13, 2014, no widow.

Sterling Roger Adams Sr., age 63, died June 14, 2014, widow of 63 years is Anna Adams of Emmetsburg.

Raymond Grubb, 98 years old, died June 28, 2014, no widow.

Frances Heaney, 91 years old, died July 26, 2014, no widower.

Relatives of Chapter 409 members:

Mildred Blickenstaff, age 91, died June 20, 2014, mother-in-law of 409 member Barbara Blickenstaff of Frederick.

Mary B.Hargett, 84 years old, died June 25, 2014 Sister-in-law of 409 member Robert Ayers

Dr. Julian Peter Kusel, age 74 died July 5, 2014. Widow of 46 years is Kathy Kusel our Luncheon Coordinator

E. Elizabeth Bittle, AGE? died July 20 relative of 409 member Eleanore R. Bittle of Myersville

Michael K O'Brien, 31 years old, died July 25, 2014, son of 409 member Carol O'Brien of Middletown

Andrew W. Mason, 93 years old, died July 19, 2014, father of 409 member Brian Mason of Frederick

Rita M. Rourke, 91years old, died August 2, 2014, mother of 409 member Michael Rourke of Frederick

Margaret Eader, 89 years old, died August 5, 2014, was the sister-in-law of Barbara Eader of Frederick.

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

Betty Chase, Don Dupreie, Joyce Gregoire, 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.

CHARITY REPORT

Ruth Davis (301-874-1997)

June 2014	50/50	\$45
June 2014	Alzheimer's Raffle	\$63
June Donations		\$20
	Total	\$128

Please remember to support the 50/50 and the bake

sale at the meetings. These are our source for our donations to Alzheimer's research and our donations to our yearly charity.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jerie O'Connor (301-845-7964)

BALANCE as of April 30, 2014.....	\$7,096.06
Receipts for May.....	\$1,534.90
Expenditures for May	(\$1,570.95)
TOTAL FUNDS available as of 5-31-2014.....	<u>\$7,060.01</u>

BALANCE as of May 31, 2014.....	\$7,060.01
Receipts for June.....	\$1,389.88
Expenditures for June	(\$1,766.26)
TOTAL FUNDS available as of 6-30-2014.....	<u>\$6,683.63</u>

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 wraab@comcast.net with the email address you prefer to use for the newsletter.

Date: September 19, 2014
Location: American Legion, 1450 Taney Ave., Frederick, MD.
Time: Doors will open at 11 AM. Lunch served at 12 noon. Program starts promptly at 1 PM.
Menu: Fried chicken
Program: Frederick County Executive Candidates Forum
 We must receive your mail reservation or cancellation no later than Friday September 12, 2014.
 Call **Kathy Kusel 1-202-264-0892** with any questions.
MAILING ADDRESS: 4006 Carriage Hill Dr., Frederick, MD 21704

Reservations for September 19, 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, September 12, 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

SEPTEMBER 2014

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SEPTEMBER 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			