



September 2019 Newsletter

The Key Notes



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

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

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2471 Five Shillings Road, Frederick, MD 21701

**NARFE Chapter 409 Luncheon
Friday, September 20 • Doors open 11:00 AM**

Menu: Fried chicken with mashed potatoes & gravy, and cole slaw

Program: The Origins of Mount Olivet Cemetery

Speaker: Chris Haugh, Community Relations & Historic Preservation Manager

<< President's Message >>

Elinor Abrell • 301-831-8753

Welcome back 409 members! I hope everyone had a good summer, perhaps with travel, visits with family and friends, or just relaxing at home. This September meeting starts the new fiscal year for Chapter 409. We have new faces on the Executive Committee and we welcome our new *Newsletter* editor, Dan Grauman, who stepped in to replace Scott Darby. Thank you Scott, for all your years of commitment and service as editor. You were appreciated!

The Executive Committee has put together a wide range of luncheon programs for the coming year, with the hope that members will find them interesting, informative, and sometimes a little fun. You won't want to miss the September program on Mount Olivet Cemetery, one of Frederick County's most famous landmarks. No one is better able to tell us about this mirror on Frederick's past than Chris Haugh; in fact he writes a blog called "Stories in Stone."

The 2019-2020 Program Booklet for Chapter 409 is now ready. Two years ago the decision was made to cease publication of the booklet due to the high cost of printing and mailing. It can easily be found on Chapter 409's website: <https://sites.google.com/site/narfe409/> On the left side menu, just scroll down to "Program Booklet." Take the time to print it, as the Booklet is full of information.

Please know that meetings of the Chapter 409 Executive Committee are open and members are welcome to attend, 10:00 AM at the Legion on the Tuesday before the Friday luncheon. Let us hear your voice with suggestions, comments, criticisms, etc.

Have you noticed that NARFE has a new look with a new logo, to go along with a centennial celebration in 2021 and a forward movement into the next 100 years of service as the "go-to" resource for the federal community? The new look is combined with a tag line meant to summarize the organization: *federal benefits experts.*

Luncheon reminder for all: **Mail your reservations early! They must be received by the Friday prior to the luncheon date.** Mail service has truly become "snail mail" these days. If your reservation has not been received, we are unable to seat you. An attendance number is given to the Legion and that is the number of available seats. Contact Gale Vernon if you have any question about your reservation.

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

The Federal Employee Paid Leave Act (FEPLA) has been incorporated into H.R. 2500, the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for fiscal year 2020. The FEPLA provides federal employees with 12 weeks of paid leave following the birth or adoption of a child. H.R. 2500 is currently pending in the House of Representatives. The Senate has passed its defense authorization bill, which does not include the paid leave provision. NARFE supports the House bill.

The House of Representatives passed the Fiscal Year 2020 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, which includes a 3.1% average federal employee pay raise and blocks the Administration from moving forward on its proposed reorganization of the Office of Personnel Management. The Senate has not taken up this bill.

The House of Representatives has approved a bill to repeal the 40% excise tax on high-value employee-provided working and retiree health benefits (the so-called Cadillac tax), that was included in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010. The Senate has not taken action on this bill to repeal the Cadillac tax. NARFE supports the repeal of this tax.

<< 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 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!

SAVE THE DATE: The Alzheimer's Association in partnership with the Frederick County Senior Services Division, AARP MD, and Frederick Community College will host a Dementia-Friendly Community Film Event on **Thursday, September 26, 1:00-4:30 PM** at FCC's Jack B. Kussmaul Theater. The Event is free. More information will follow.

< 2019 CHAPTER 409 CHARITY DONATION >



This year the Chapter chose Hospice of Frederick County for our charity donation. Pictured are Jessica Mitko of Hospice, Earle Browning, Charity Committee Chairman, and Elinor Abrell, President of Chapter 409.

<< Treasurer's Report >>

Jerie O'Connor • 301-845-7964

Balance as of May, 31, 2019	\$4,014.00
June receipts	\$1,269.00
June expenses	(\$1,184.38)
Total funds available as of June 30, 2019...	\$4,098.62

<< Membership Report >>

Dennis Vernon • 301-694-8003

Hey Gang – Hope you all had a wonderful summer or, at least, not get injured. First, I would like to thank Michaela Saccoccio for forwarding to me the NARFE recruitment advertisement that appeared in the June issue of the "Postal Supervisor" magazine. Chuck Caloia, our Chapter Service Officer, asked me at our last luncheon if there was an initiative to make postal employees aware of our organization and membership benefits. I didn't know the

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

9/17/19	9/20/19	Mount Olivet Cemetery: Chris Haugh
10/22/19	10/25/19	Literacy Council of Frederick County: Jennifer Szabo
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