



Next luncheon / meeting is on Tuesday, September 13 at 11:00 AM

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

Editor: Dan Grauman • 301-806-5999 • dangrauman@gmail.com

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

It was just one year ago that Chapter 409 resumed monthly luncheon meetings following a 19-month shutdown due to COVID. What a difference a year makes! We are so blessed now to have vaccines, boosters, and coming soon, a reformulated booster designed to be more effective against the variants. All of these have enabled us to get back to at least a near normal life known before COVID came.

NARFE 2022 Elections are now open for voting: National President (4 candidates) and National Secretary/Treasurer, and a Vice President for our Region 2 of MD Federation (3 candidates). There are also several By-Laws proposals submitted for voting. The NARFE website (<https://www.narfe.org/>) has a resource link to get full election information, including candidates’ statements. There is also a special election section included in the August NARFE magazine. Voting can be done either online using your membership number or using the paper mail in ballot in the magazine. Deadline is **August 31**. Voting is an important privilege and right – let your voice be heard in choosing leaders for the organization.

This is the year of midterm elections at all levels; our Maryland primary has already been held. The November election is certain to be contentious, so it becomes more important than ever to make sure you are a fully informed voter. NARFE is ever vigilant in watching Congressional activity and provides updates each month in the “NARFE Bill Tracker” section of the magazine. Remember that NARFE is a *non-partisan* organization whose mission is, in both chambers of Congress and the Administration, to act as an advocate for, and protector of, pay and benefits of Federal employees and retirees. Please keep this in mind and continue to support NARFE-PAC with your contributions, especially now with elections barely 3 months away. These funds enable NARFE to educate, build relationships with, and financially support those candidates on both sides of the aisle, who stand with the Federal workforce. Periodically, NARFE-PAC mails requests for contributions and NARFE magazine provides information for contributing.

A brief note on membership numbers: there are 5,477 Chapter members and 5,394 National members for a total of 10,871 members in Maryland. Chapter 409 has 433 members. Numbers do count, as they are voices to be heard in Congress!

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

Balance available to Chapter 409 as of May 18, 2022 \$5,953.54

- Income \$569.34
- Expenses \$403.50

Balance available to Chapter 409 as of Aug 18, 2022 \$6,119.38

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

Senator Tim Kaine, D-VA, joined by several colleagues and with NARFE’s endorsement, introduced on August 2, 2022, the Preventing a Patronage System Act, which would prevent future administrations from creating new excepted service schedules to bypass the traditional merit system rules unless Congress changes the law to allow it. On July 28, 2022, Rep. Chip Roy, R-TX, introduced the Public Reform Act, H.R. 8550, which would allow all Federal workers to be considered at-will employees. This bill, which NARFE opposes, would undermine and/or eliminate merit-based Civil Service and reinstate the spoils system. The House has already included in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 a

provision, supported by NARFE, to prevent future attempts to implement a new excepted service category with rules more akin to those covering political appointments as former President Trump tried to do in amending Schedule F.

The Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs advanced the First Responder Fair RETIRE Act, H.R. 521, which NARFE supports. That bill would allow disabled Federal first responders who sustained their injury or illness on the job to maintain their public safety retirement system benefits, should they continue their service in a non-public safety position.

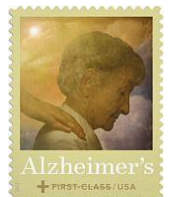
As on July 29, 2022, there are more than the required 290 cosponsors for the Social Security Fairness Act, H.R. 82, to bring that bill to the floor of the House for its consideration. That bill would end the unfair reduction of Social Security benefits for Federal retirees imposed by the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset.

The Senate Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee has released its draft Fiscal Year 2023 spending bill, in which it agrees with President Biden to give Federal employees a 4.6 percent pay increase for 2023.

Alzheimer’s Report (Kathy Siggins • 301-829-2462)

My family will join me on **Sunday, October 9th** to participate in our 29th Western Maryland Walk to End Alzheimer’s in Frederick, MD. We continue to walk in memory of Gene, beloved father and grandfather who lost his battle with Alzheimer’s after 13 years. The Walk has become a very special part of my life, as I continue to lead Team HOPE in raising awareness and funds in support of the Alzheimer’s Association. With the dollars we raise we help to provide care, support, and services to families in our community, while advancing critical research toward methods of treatment and prevention. We continue to walk to help others through their journey. If you would like to sponsor me in the Walk, please visit my donation website page by clicking [here](#) to make a tax-deductible contribution to the Alzheimer’s Association, OR to join Chuck Caloia and me on Team HOPE. Please know that every dollar counts and that no amount is too small. If you prefer, please make your check payable to: **Alzheimer’s Association** and mail to me at **13001 Purdum Ct., Mt. Airy, MD 21771**, OR click on the MAIL-IN DONATION option next to DONATE and mail to the Towson, MD address for processing. Thank you so much for your consideration of a donation.

Update on Alzheimer’s Semipostal Stamp: as of June 2022, the U.S. Postal Service has sold more than 10 million Alzheimer’s Stamps, raising more than \$1.3 million for Alzheimer’s research at the National Institutes of Health. Go to your post office or click [here](#) to buy the Alzheimer’s stamp, use it and help us promote its sale. Cost, \$15 for a sheet of 20 with the net cost of \$3.00 going to Alzheimer’s research at NIH. As a member of NARFE’s National Walk Team, thank you for your continued support through all these years.



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

Praise the Lord. There are no deaths to report. We keep in touch with the shut-ins who are: Betty Brewer, Glen & Nannie Jones, Kathy Kusel, and Richard & Lynn McKnight. Please let the Chaplain know if there are deaths or other shut-ins. God Bless everyone.

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

September 2022

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September 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. See 2022-23 luncheon schedule below • 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.**

Date	Speaker	Presentation Title
Sep 13	Bill Bugg	“Soaring Above Adversity”, based on his book in which Mr. Bugg describes caring for his wife with Alzheimer’s Disease
Oct 11	Dr. Mark Kortepeter, author of the book “Inside the Hot Zone”	Dr. Kortepeter oversaw the Fort Detrick lab, where they worked with bacteria like anthrax and viruses like Ebola. Learn more about the book on YouTube .
Nov 8	David Hurka, BlueCross/BlueShield	Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program
Dec 13	Musician(s) TBA	Holiday music
Jan 10	Chip Jewell	Frederick County Firefighters history
Feb 14	TBA	Downsizing and decluttering
Mar 14	Jeannine Robinson, Consumer Protection Division of the Office of Attorney General of MD	The latest scams and frauds
Apr 11	TBA	News from the Maryland General Assembly
May 9	TBA – Recipient of annual Chapter 409 donation	Annual donation, remembering Chapter members who have passed, installation of new NARFE Chapter 409 Officers
Jun 13	BINGO	BINGO

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