



Next luncheon / meeting is on Tuesday, January 10 at 11:00 AM

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

Have you had your COVID Bivalent Booster Vaccine shot? The annual flu vaccination? We are so very fortunate to have these vaccines available to protect the health of individuals, as well as to limit spread of the viruses within a community, thus helping to keep all citizens safe and healthy. We all know, or know of, persons who have become ill with some form of COVID in spite of being fully vaccinated and boosted, or even having had COVID before. However, because of the protection offered by the vaccine, the illness is very often mild, at the level of a cold or a flu, not requiring hospitalization, as we saw just two years ago. CDC has stated that studies have shown that the Omicron boosters are *84% effective at keeping seniors from being hospitalized* with COVID-19 as compared with those unvaccinated, and 73% more effective in protecting those who have only received two doses of the original vaccines, not updated to target Omicron. Chapter 409 has been contacted by two individuals who stated that they are not vaccinated, do not intend to get vaccinated, and because the Chapter requires vaccination in order to attend the monthly luncheons, they were dropping Chapter membership. The Executive Committee discussed this situation and agreed that maintaining the vaccination requirement is for the safety and comfort of those attending the luncheons. Those individuals made a non-vaccination choice, which is their right. As always, masks are optional for those who may be compromised or feel safer in wearing one.

Did you know that NARFE has a scholarship awards program through the NARFE Federal Employee Education & Assistance Fund? Recipients will receive a one-time award of \$1,000 to put toward the 2023-24 school year. Eligible for this are children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren of NARFE members. Applicants must be seniors in high school. Deadline to apply is March 16, 2023. For more information and to access the application go to www.feea.org/our-programs/scholarships/.

Be sure to read through the new January/February issue of NARFE magazine. In addition to the usual timely information provided for both retirees and active employees, there is a message from the new national President, William Shackelford, in which he states the importance of moving NARFE forward in a new direction, and addresses in detail the ongoing challenge of increasing NARFE membership. The cover feature article, *Preserve the Memories, Dump the Junk*, is indeed timely for Chapter 409, as the luncheon program for February is on downsizing and decluttering. Most of us have homes that are "overstuffed" and can benefit from information in the article and presented in the program.

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

Balance available to Chapter 409 as of Nov 18, 2022	\$5,912.06
• Income	\$386.30
• Expenses	\$132.50
Balance available to Chapter 409 as of Dec 18, 2022	6,165.86

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

The good news is that the Government is funded for the balance of its 2023 Fiscal year ending September 30, 2023. But its spending may require raising the debt ceiling, which may cause much drama. It appears that Congress will not enact the Social Security Fairness Act, H.R. 82, which would have repealed the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset to Social Security. This has been a desired

bill for NARFE for many years. Finally, Congress has failed to pass Anti-Schedule F legislation, which would have prohibited future administrations from politicizing Federal employment.

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

2022 was a very successful fundraising year for NARFE-Alzheimer's Research. We exceeded our National Goal of \$15 million in record time and set a new National Goal of \$16 million for NARFE-Alzheimer's Research by the end of 2025. Thank you for all that you have done in support of the Alzheimer's cause in 2022, and I'm looking forward to working with all of you for another successful fundraising year in 2023. Happy New Year!

Chaplain's Report (Margaret Clark • 240-405-4018)

We are sorry to report the passing of Dorothy "Dottie" Stevens on December 14. Dottie was a longtime beloved Chapter 409 member.

We keep in touch with the shut-ins who are: Betty Brewer; Nannie Jones; Kathy Kussel; Lynn McKnight; and Mary Miller.

In case of illness or death, please notify me at the phone number above, or by email at mclark615@verizon.net. Thank you!

Suggestions anyone? (Chuck Caloia, Service Officer • 301-938-2000)

Members, Let Us Hear from You!

Have a suggestion for a presentation at one of our chapter's monthly luncheons? Please share it with one of the members of our Executive Board! We'd welcome the opportunity to consider it for inclusion in the 2023-2024 speaker series. Although the first presentation in that series won't take place until September, it's never too early for the Board to hear your good ideas.

Editor's Note (Dan Grauman • 301-806-5999)

Are you familiar with the **Frederick County Fire & Rescue Museum**? If not, you can visit <https://frederickmdfiremuseum.org/>, the museum's website. Better yet, come to the luncheon on **Tuesday, January 10**, when **Chip Jewell**, past President of the museum will talk about the Frederick County firefighters history. This promises to be a very interesting presentation! Hope to see you there.



Frederick Chapter 409, Inc. of NARFE
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January 2023 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 2023 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.**

SNOW POLICY: If Frederick County Schools are closed for weather, the luncheon meeting is canceled. If County Schools are delayed but open at meeting time, the luncheon meeting will be held as scheduled.

Date	Speaker	Presentation Title
Jan 10	Chip Jewell, past President of the Frederick County Fire & Rescue Museum	Frederick County firefighters history
Feb 14	Courtney Posch, Graceful Transitions	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.