



June 2023 Newsletter *The Key Notes*



National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association
Chapter No. 409 • Frederick, Maryland • www.narfechapter409.org
<< Next luncheon / meeting is on Tuesday, June 13 at 11:00 AM >>

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

This June meeting of Chapter 409 is the last one of the chapter year. Bingo seems to have become the popular program of choice for June, enjoyed by many. Looking back, it does appear that our members are happy with Golden Corral as a meeting venue. **Please note that we break during the months of July and August, with neither membership meetings nor newsletters.** Members of the recently elected Executive Committee took the oath of office at the May meeting and will continue to meet as needed during the summer via Zoom. The first project is to put together a schedule of informative and interesting programs on a variety of topics for the coming year.



Members of the Executive Committee who were sworn in at the May luncheon. 1st row (l to r): Pam Ogasawara, Chuck Caloia, Beverly Rynes, Margaret Hawker, Elinor Abrell, Margaret Clark, and Vicki Yanez; 2nd row (l to r): David Carmack, Joe Fitzgerald, Kathy O'Connor, J.D. Brooks, and Scott Darby. Missing from the photo are Dan Grauman, Walter Rabbitt, and Jeanine Young.

Newsletter Editor Dan Grauman is working on updating the chapter information booklet with the help of Executive Committee members. This booklet contains a roster of officers, as well as a list of chapter committees. These committees are tasked with carrying out specific jobs for the chapter. Some committees need a chairperson or a member or two. We ask that you consider becoming part of a committee: there would be just one task involved, usually requiring very little time, no regular meetings, and perhaps a few emails or phone calls as needed. Chapter 409 greatly needs support from its members – serving on a committee is a very easy way of giving back!

During the summer months, you may want to visit the NARFE website (<https://www.narfe.org/>) and look at some of the offered webinars listed there, covering a broad range of topics of interest to both active employees and retirees. Webinars are offered on tax planning and other financial topics, Medicare and FEHB, survivor benefits, just to name a few. These webinars can be found at <https://www.narfe.org/?s=webinars>.

Happy summer to all! See you in September!

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

In May 2023, Senator Scott (R-FL) and Representative Roy (R-TX) introduced the Public Service Reform Act, HR 3115/S. 1496, which would allow every Federal employee to be removed from service for "good cause, bad cause, or no cause at all". These bills would, among other things, also abolish the Merit System Protection Board and would limit appeals to claims of whistle blower retaliation and Equal Employment Opportunity Commission complaints before the United States Court of Appeals. NARFE opposes this legislation and other

attempts to upend the merit-based Civil Service system and the professional, non-partisan Civil Service that our system preserves.

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

Balance available to Chapter 409 as of April 21, 2023 \$6,364.08
• Income \$506.00
• Expenses \$789.00
Balance available to Chapter 409 as of May 19, 2023 \$6,081.08

Membership Report (Scott Darby • 301-662-7123)

Chapter 409 would like to welcome the following new members: Robert Anderson, Norma Brinkley-Staley, Donald Dougherty, Dana Erickson, Gloria Feliciano-Barger, Kent Kroll, and Carl Middleton. We currently have 311 members. Dan Grauman and I are working on updating our membership / mailing list.



Kathy Siggins, Charity Committee member, Leslie Schultz, Executive Director / Founder of SOAR, and Elinor Abrell, Chapter 409 President.

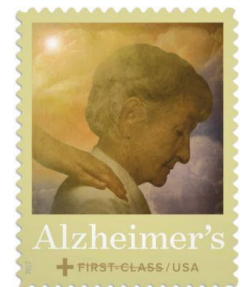
SOAR, 'Supporting Older Adults through Resources, Inc.' was this year's recipient of Chapter 409's charity donation. SOAR's mission is to provide financial assistance to older adults in Frederick County to meet their essential needs in a confidential, respectful, and dignified manner. Since inception, SOAR has touched nearly 2,000 seniors with over \$450,000 in supportive services. Learn more about SOAR at <https://soarfrederick.org/>.

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

We keep in touch with the shut-ins who are: Betty Brewer and Mary Miller. In case of illness or death, please notify me at the phone number above, or by email (mclark615@verizon.net). Thank you!

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

The U.S. Postal Service has announced that First-Class postage will be going up from 63 cents to 66 cents in the summer. By law, a percentage of the cost of Semipostal stamps is required to go to the cause. Since the cost of the Alzheimer's stamp remained at 75 cents per stamp through the last two postage increases, we will most likely see an increase in the cost of the Alzheimer's stamp in the summer. I will keep you posted, meanwhile please stock up now. Thank you!



Service Officer's Report (Chuck Caloia • 301-938-2000)

Help Save A Life! No matter the season, there's always a need for blood donations. Please donate if you can. Call to 1-800-REDCROSS (1-800-733-2767) or go to <https://www.redcrossblood.org/> to find a donation site near you.

Frederick Chapter 409, Inc. of NARFE
2471 Five Shillings Road
Frederick, MD 21701

June 2023

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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 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			Program		
Jun 13	BINGO	BINGO	BINGO	BINGO	BINGO	BINGO

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