



June 2024 Newsletter The Key Notes



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

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President's Message (Scott Darby • 301-662-7123)



Incoming President, Scott Darby, presenting Certificate of Appreciation to outgoing President, Elinor Abrell.

I can't start out with my first article as President without acknowledging Elinor's two-year commitment as Co-President and President, which turned into nine years. Thank you from the membership is not enough for the work you did for the chapter. I am definitely not a writer, but I will do my best to follow Elinor's example.

One project that Elinor wanted to complete was updating our Bylaws. This

was done, and we are waiting for NARFE National to see if the Bylaws are accepted as written. Joe Fitzgerald, thank you for leading this committee and the committee members.



Elinor Abrell presenting the \$500 donation check to Christina Forbes

May's luncheon was highlighted by Chapter 409's annual donation to a deserving local charitable organization. This year's choice was [Daybreak Adult Day Services](#). The services that Daybreak provides are considerable. We also remembered Chapter members whom we lost over the past year. Last, but not least, members of the Chapter's Executive Committee (EC) for 2024-2025 took the oath of office. The EC's term begins on June 1.

With membership down nationally and in our chapter, I hope all members can support NARFE National financially. There is a form to support NARFE-PAC

in *NARFE* magazine. Please help if you can – even without the form, any amount sent will help.

I would like to give you some background about my government service. I served a four-year apprenticeship at the National Bureau of Standards/National Institute of Standards and Technology leading to my position as a journeyman machinist and moving up to an instrument maker (not musical ♪). After two years in my apprenticeship, I moved to the grinding room, where all final grinding was finished. I worked with all types of ceramics and metals. One memorable job was finishing parts for the Cassini-Huygens spacecraft. I retired in 2000 after serving 28 years.

Please join us at the June 11th luncheon for **BINGO**. The next luncheon is in September. If you have any suggestions or requests for next year's programs, don't hesitate to contact any Chapter 409 officer to ask or recommend a speaker. Finding luncheon speakers is something we do during the summer.

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

Balance available to Chapter 409 as of Apr 20, 2024 \$6,337.99
• Income \$387.00
• Expenses (see explanation for amount of expenses on address page) . . . \$1,445.22
Balance available to Chapter 409 as of May 20, 2024 \$5,279.77

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

It is election season again. So, federal employees need to review the requirements of the Hatch Act, which governs what they may and may not do in partisan elections. Federal employees may not: engage in political activity while on duty or in the workplace; knowingly accept, receive, or solicit a

political contribution for a political party, candidate, or group in a partisan race; or use their official authority to influence or affect the outcome of an election. These are only part of a detailed set of rules.

On April 23, 2024, the U.S. Department of Labor finalized its Retirement Security Rule, which takes effect on September 25, 2024, and which redefines what constitutes an investment advice fiduciary under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act and the Internal Revenue Code. The rule mandates, among other things, that financial advisors act with the highest standard of care and loyalty, ensuring their advice is prudent and free from conflicts of interest that could adversely affect retirement savers.

On April 16, 2024, the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Social Security held its second hearing on the Windfall Elimination Provision and Government Pensions Offset. There were no laws enacted in the recent Maryland legislative session that were specifically directed at federal employees or federal retirees.

Membership Report (Chuck Caloia • 301-938-2000)

In this, my first Newsletter article as 1st VP (Membership), I want to thank my predecessor Scott Darby for helping make our transition a smooth one.

Like other NARFE chapters, ours has been experiencing a decline in membership. Chapter 409 currently has an even 300 members. Membership is the lifeblood of any organization. Please tell the federal employees and retirees you know, their spouses, and others who are eligible about the benefits of membership in NARFE **and Chapter 409**. To help with your recruiting, a copy of our informational brochure can be obtained at one of our luncheons, online at <https://narfechapter409.org/about/>, or by contacting me. Don't let NARFE Chapter 409 be "the best kept secret in Frederick"!

We are reaching out to NARFE members who are no longer members of our Chapter. Soon a letter, with the brochure enclosed, will be mailed out to former Chapter 409 members, encouraging them to request reinstatement. (A shout out to Scott Darby, Dan Grauman, and others on the Executive Committee who've been working with me on this task.)

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

Chapter 409 members **Jeanne L. Federman** died on March 30 at age 95, and **David Harold Wallace** died on May 5 at age 97.

We keep in touch with the shut-in who is **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 Longest Day is June 21, the day with the most light known as the summer solstice. This is the second largest fundraising event for the Alzheimer's Association behind the Walk to End Alzheimer's. Participants will fight the darkness of Alzheimer's and other dementia through a fundraising activity of their choice on a day that works for them in honor of caregivers nationwide. I registered NARFE Chapter 409 and made a self-donation to show our support knowing that every day for a caregiver is the longest day. Also, the Greater MD Walk to End Alzheimer's in Frederick will be held on **Sunday, October 13** and Team HOPE is registered and ready to go. 😊 Both events raise funds to advance the care, support, and research efforts of the Alzheimer's Association. I greatly appreciate all that you do for the Alzheimer's cause. Thank you!

Frederick Chapter 409, Inc. of NARFE
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June 2024

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NARFE Chapter No. 409 • Frederick, Maryland

NARFE Chapter 409 luncheons take place at the Golden Corral Buffet & Grill, 5621 Spectrum Drive, Frederick, MD 21703.

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.

Date	Speaker(s)			Program		
Jun 11	<i>BINGO</i>	<i>BINGO</i>	<i>BINGO</i>	<i>BINGO</i>	<i>BINGO</i>	<i>BINGO</i>

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

Explanation for amount of expenses: The month of May always has an increase in expenses. It is the month that we give our donation to a deserving local charitable organization in addition to submitting our Alzheimer's raffle income to benefit research. Both are funded by our monthly luncheon raffles. Thanks to all our luncheon attendees for their generosity.

BLOOD DRIVE

The New Market District Lions Club is sponsoring a blood drive on **June 21 from 8 AM to 1 PM** at the **New Market Grange Hall, 14 South Alley, New Market 21774**. Come and donate blood to help save another person's life.

To Register visit www.redcrossblood.org. Click "Donate Blood", then "Find a Blood Drive" under "How to Donate", enter Sponsor Code: "NewMarketLions" or Zip Code: "21774", select an appointment time, create an account, and you're DONE. Thank you!

Donor Promotion: Give blood between **June 10 and June 30** and receive a **\$15 e-gift card!**

Details are available at www.redcrossblood.org/local-homepage/events/do-good.html