

September 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, September 10 at 11:00 AM >>

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

President: Scott Darby • 301-662-7123 • sdarby1601@gmail.com

I would like to welcome you back after a rather hot summer. The Executive Committee has been busy this summer getting our luncheon programs verified for this coming year. The tentative programs through June 2025 are displayed in the calendar. Our November meeting, which covers Federal Employees Health Benefits, is important and always well attended. The speaker will again be David Hurka from BlueCross/BlueShield. Other vendors will also be represented.

Our congratulations go to chapter member, Gary Bell, whose photograph of Big Hole Pass, Montana, was chosen for the 2025 NARFE Calendar. It's a beautiful photo.

I again would like to thank Past President Elinor Abrell for getting the updating of our Bylaws started, and Joe Fitzgerald and the Bylaws Committee for rewriting and updating our Bylaws. They were accepted by the National Office. Several changes to the Bylaws include: combining Corresponding Secretary and Recording Secretary into one position, Secretary; the number of Members-at-Large was reduced from six to three; and the date of our luncheon was removed – we never know when our venue might change and what day would be available. Please visit the Chapter 409 Home Page (https://narfechapter409.org/) to read the Bylaws. We would like to have the general membership vote and approve the Bylaws at our September meeting.

Please take this opportunity to exercise one of the most important responsibilities of your NARFE membership and vote in the 2024 NARFE election. Voting is open for the NARFE 2024 election until 11:59 p.m. ET on September 30, 2024. For candidate information, go to the September 2024 issue of NARFE Magazine. You can also click here for statements by the

Please sign into the NARFE National website (https://www.narfe.org/), where you will find a wealth of information about membership perks, upcoming Webinars, and Webinar archives that are important to current and retired employees. All you need is your membership number, which can be found on the NARFE magazine label. Sign in to see what you have been missing!

If you can help support NARFE-PAC, it would be greatly appreciated. You don't have to wait for a fundraiser – any amount at any time would help further our mission. Click here to find the NARFE-PAC contribution form. Thank you!

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

Balance available to Chapter 409 as of May 20, 2024	. \$5,279.77
• Income	\$559.00
• Expenses	\$392.44
Balance available to Chapter 409 as of Aug 20, 2024	. \$5,446.33

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

Federal employees need to review the It's election season again. requirements of the Hatch Act, which governs what they may and may not do in partisan elections. Please read the article, AVOIDING HATCH ACT VIOLATIONS IN AN ELECTION YEAR, in the September 2024 issue of the NARFE magazine. Although federal retirees are not subject to the Hatch Act, this article points out that certain actions by federal retirees could lead their federal employee friends to violate the Hatch Act, e.g., replying or forwarding, in certain situations, a retiree's partisan political email.

In July Senator Lee (R-UT) introduced the No Union Time on the Taxpaver's Dime Act, that would prohibit federal employees from using on-the-clock hours for union-related activities. Senators Crapo (R-ID) and Cortez Masto (D-NV) introduced the Supporting Employees in the Guard and Reserve Act, that would provide guard and reserve members in the federal work force 20 days paid military leave annually. A similar bill was introduced earlier by Congressman Houlahan (D-PA) in the House.

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On July 30, 2024, Senator Cassidy (R-LA) introduced the Federal Employee Return to Work Act, that would cut locality pay for most federal employees who telework at least one day per week. On the same day, Senator Cassidy introduced the Federal Employee Locality Accountability Retirement Act, that would exclude locality pay from retirement annuity calculations for new employees under the FERS retirement program.

On August 7, 2024, Senators Brown (D-NH) and Collins (R-ME) sent a letter to the Senate Majority Leader and the Senate Minority Leader to bring to the Senate Floor for a vote the Social Security Fairness Act, S. 597, which would repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pensions Offset. Congressman Spanberger (D-VA) filed a special rule, H. Res. 1364, to allow for consideration of H.R. 82, the Social Security Fairness Act, in the House.

Congressmen Connolly (D-VA) and Fitzpatrick (R-PA) submitted an amendment (#140) to H.R. 8070, the Service Member Quality and Life Improvement and National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025, to incorporate the language of Saving the Civil Service Act, H. R. 1002, which Act would prevent the return of Schedule F and protect the Civil Service.

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

There are currently 301 members in our Chapter and another 220 NARFE "National Only" members in our area. If you know of a federal employee, retiree, or anyone else eligible to join us, please tell them about us and invite them to join. Ask me for our information pamphlet for prospective members.

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

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)

This photo shows Dr. Joanne Pike, CEO and President of the Alzheimer's Association (left) with the sheet of Alzheimer's stamps presented to her by **Kathy Siggins**. Dr. Pike was a speaker at FEDcon24. She gave us an update on where we stand with Alzheimer's research and thanked NARFE members for raising more than \$16 million through the NARFE-Alzheimer's Research Fund since 1985, as well as The Longest Day, and the Walk to End Alzheimer's.



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

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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.

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 / Organization	Program
Sep 10	Brad W. Young, CFP, CTFA, Financial Planner	Tax Strategies for Seniors
Oct 8	Dalis Albaugh, BS, ACSM-CCEP, Frederick Health	Health Benefits of exercise
	ProMotion Fitness	
Nov 12	David Hurka – BlueCross/Blue Shield FEP	Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program
Dec 10	The Historical Society of Frederick County	TBA
Jan 14, 2025	Frederick Health	Stroke Awareness
Feb 11	Frederick Police Outreach	Ways to maximize home safety
Mar 11	Frederick County Recycling	TBA
Apr 8	Maryland General Assembly	General Assembly session update
May 13	Representative of charity donation recipient	New officers' installation, charity donation, memorial service
Jun 10	BINGO BINGO BINGO	BINGO BINGO BINGO

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