



May 2025 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, May 13 at 11:00 AM >>

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

April's meeting with **Maryland State Senator William Folden** was very eye-opening about what the legislature went through balancing our budget. I don't think anybody was happy with everything that was passed. It also looks like next year there will be another trying session for the Governor, Senate, and House of Delegates. I have enough trouble with my own budget.

This month's luncheon will have the annual Memorial Service, the swearing in of the 2025-26 officers, and the presentation of our donation to our local charity. This year the committee picked

Meals on Wheels. **Kitty Devilbiss** will accept the donation and speak about Meals on Wheels. Our donations go to organizations that help older citizens.



President Scott Darby presents Certificate of Appreciation to MD State Senator Folden

We also had **Martin Bonura**, **Lions District 22W** First Vice District Governor, speak about some of the programs they support, including vision, food insecurity, and Alzheimer's.

This brings me to thank **Chuck Caloia**, 1st Vice President (Membership), for organizing the NARFE Information Day at the Urbana Library on April 12. Chuck said that he wasn't sure what to expect. I think we were pleasantly surprised. We had about 10 visitors. We got to spend time with people who needed to talk about the current

situation with government jobs.

Out of the Lions presentation at our April meeting, we have been invited, and accepted, to participate in a larger Lions Service Carnival at the Urbana Library on May 10. Please see details in the Membership Report.

We, the Board, are starting to get ideas for next year's luncheon speakers. If you have seen a speaker you liked or heard about a presentation that you think might interest the group, please let one of us know.

We are going to continue to support the **Frederick Food Bank** through at least June. See details about items needed on the next page.

FYI, stamp prices go from 73¢ to 78¢ in July. Yikes!

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

Balance available to Chapter 409 as of Mar 21, 2025 \$6,293.11
• Income \$471.00
• Expenses \$672.48
Balance available to Chapter 409 as of Apr 22, 2025 \$6,091.63

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

The Office of Personnel Management issued a proposed rule on April 23, 2025, that will remove civil service protections from as many as 50,000 or more civil servants. This will essentially reinstate Schedule F (now known as Schedule Policy/Career) issued during President Trump's first term. Click [here](#) to see the Federal Register entry. NARFE opposes this politicization of the civil service.

According to NARFE, President Trump is likely to propose a pay freeze for federal employees in 2026.

The House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is now tasked with writing legislation that will cut \$50 billion from programs within its jurisdiction. One of these programs covers federal civil servants. According to NARFE, there could be a change from the current model of providing health insurance to a voucher system. As always, NARFE will do its best to protect benefits for federal employees and retirees.

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

According to the NARFE National website as of April 24, Chapter 409 has 316 members.

Our NARFE Information Day event on April 12 was visited by 10 parties interested in joining us. My thanks to the Executive Committee members who helped by publicizing or participating in this event: Elinor Abrell, J.D. Brooks, David Carmack, Scott Darby, Dan Grauman, Pam Ogasawara, Beverly Rynex, Kathy Siggins, and Jeanine Young.

At the invitation of the Lions Clubs of Frederick County, our Chapter will have a table at the Lions Service Carnival on **Saturday, May 10 from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM**, at the Urbana Regional Library, 4020 Amelung Street. The event is free and open to the public. The Lions are planning a family-friendly day of fun, service, and learning, featuring free music, vision screenings, interactive exhibits, service activities, and more. If you can, please bring non-perishable food items to help local food banks. Mark your calendars!

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

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

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

The State of Maryland has the highest prevalence of Alzheimer's disease and other dementia according to a study that was unveiled at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference last year. Baltimore City and Prince Georges County came in 2nd and 4th among the top five cities/counties nationwide. There are currently 127,200 Marylanders living with Alzheimer's and nearly 300,000 caregivers. Dementia is a public health crisis in Maryland and funding dementia services is an important solution. Funding can help people impacted, reduce future risk, and save the State money by reducing Medicaid spending. The mandatory appropriation for the dementia Navigation Program is currently at risk of being cut in half from \$2.4 million annually to \$1.2 million. We cannot let this happen, so I will be attending the AIM Advocacy Forum in June.

Nominating Committee Report (Peter Alvestad)

Please welcome Chapter 409's Executive Committee members for 2025-26: President – **Scott Darby**; 1st Vice President (Membership) – **Chuck Caloia**; 2nd Vice President (Legislation) – **David Carmack**; Secretary – **Ted Hull**; Treasurer – **Kathy O'Connor**; Chaplain – **Margaret Clark**; Service Officer – **Chuck Caloia**; Newsletter Editor & Webmaster – **Dan Grauman**; three Members-at-Large – **J.D. Brooks**, **Ronnie Osterman**, and **Jeanine Young**.

The Nominating Committee wishes to thank all those Chapter 409 members who volunteered to serve in a position or otherwise participated in the nominating process this year.



Frederick Chapter 409, Inc. of NARFE
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May 2025

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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.

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
May 13	Kitty Devilbiss representing Meals on Wheels , this year's charity donation recipient Installation of new officers, charity donation, memorial service for deceased Chapter members
Jun 10	BINGO BINGO BINGO BINGO
Sep 9	Terri Lemere, M.S., OTR/L, ALCM®, CAPS representing Healthy Home Living Solutions, LLC Aging in place
Oct 14	Speaker/Organization & Program TBA
Nov 11	David Hurka, BlueCross/Blue Shield FEP Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program update for 2026

FREDERICK FOOD BANK DONATION LIST

NON-PERISHABLE FOOD

- Cereal
- Canned Fruits
- Canned Vegetables
- Canned Meats
- Snack Items
- Pasta
- Gluten-Free & Dairy Free Items

HYGIENE ITEMS

- Baby Food
- Razors
- Shampoo
- Shaving Cream
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Towels
- Washcloths



DONATION DROP-OFF LOCATION

The City of Frederick Food Bank
 14 East All Saints Street
 Frederick, MD 21701



FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL (301) 600-1506

Dues payments and gifts or contributions to NARFE are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes.