



<< Next luncheon / meeting is on Tuesday, February 10 at 11:00 AM >>

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

This month we are very honored to have Frederick **County Executive Jessica Fitzwater** as our speaker. The program will focus on the role of the County Executive and opportunities for volunteering.

Professor **Guillermo Warley** gave a very informative talk on the basics of how Artificial Intelligence (AI) works. Mr. Warley will be teaching a 6-session, 9-hour daytime course, “Topics on AI and Other Modern Technologies”, in May and June at Frederick Community College. It is part of the Institute for Learning in Retirement (ILR). Professor Warley’s slides are on our website under “Handouts”.

We are still collecting donations for the Frederick Food Bank. Please see **Pam Ogasawara** for any information and donations. Food or currency are greatly appreciated.

Chapter 409 elections are coming up in May. **Peter Alvestad** has volunteered to chair the Nominating Committee. We need a **Treasurer** and one **Member-at-Large**.

I recently observed a Zoom meeting of NARFE’s State Legislative Committee (SLC). Most of the issues dealt with seniors. Some dealt with tax relief, losses from theft or fraud, and veteran issues. **Senator William Folden**, who spoke to us last year, has sponsored a **bill** to give an income tax credit to individuals residing with and caring for elderly parents. Many of the bills were discussed. The SLC would like to have testimony or letters from NARFE members sent to support the proposed legislation. During this meeting, the Maryland Federation also asked for support of MDNARFE-PAC. This PAC raises and spends funds to assist candidates and members of the Maryland General Assembly, who support senior and federal employee issues.

The Chapter 409 officers would like to wish everyone Happy Valentine’s Day! Watch the chocolate, I really mean, happily disappear. Don’t go out and look for the mail on President’s Day. I know I will. ☺

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

Balance available to Chapter 409 as of Dec 16, 2025	\$5,799.47
• Income	\$352.00
• Expenses	\$162.50
Balance available to Chapter 409 as of Jan 23, 2026	\$5,988.97

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

Unless Congress votes to fund the Government by January 30, 2026, there will be a partial shutdown of the Government. The House of Representatives has already passed all the appropriations bills needed to fund the Government for its fiscal year 2026, which ends on September 30, 2026. There remain a few appropriations bills for the Senate to approve to avoid a partial shutdown. The only appropriation bill about which there is some contention is the one that funds the Department of Homeland Security.

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

According to the NARFE National database, the membership of Chapter 409 stands at 316. Our Chapter is pleased to welcome new members **Scarlett Gibb, Martha Hood, and Mai Loan Pham**. Several members have been dropped for non-renewal. If you are one of them, and you didn’t intend to

leave the Chapter, please phone NARFE at 1-800-456-8410, Option 1, to speak to a representative about renewing your NARFE and/or Chapter membership. All members – please be aware of your renewal date and don’t let your membership lapse. Dues withholding or multi-year renewals are the easiest ways to avoid a lapse. As always, we thank those of you who recently renewed.

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

We keep in touch with shut-in, **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)

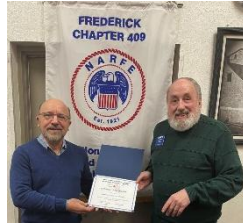
Below are portions from a media@alz.org report:
Washington, D.C., Jan. 20, 2026 – Congress has announced a bipartisan agreement to provide a \$100 million increase for Alzheimer’s and dementia research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), along with \$41.5 million for implementation of the BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer’s Act at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in fiscal year 2026. This agreement includes a historic investment in BOLD funding – the highest annual amount since the law was enacted – reinforcing the federal government’s continued commitment to addressing one of the nation’s most urgent public health challenges. When signed into law, it will bring total annual federal dementia research funding to \$3.9 billion – accelerating progress against dementia for all communities nationwide. Each year hundreds of advocates representing all 50 states gather on Capitol Hill to share their stories with their Members of Congress in support of additional funding for Alzheimer’s research. Many thanks to our bipartisan congressional champions, Senators **Susan Collins** and **Patty Murray**, and Representatives **Tom Cole** and **Rosa DeLauro**, whose leadership helped make this critical progress possible for the millions of families affected by this disease.

Nominating Committee Report (Peter Alvestad)

Chapter 409 is always interested in members who want to serve in a volunteer position. This is the time of year when we look for candidates to fill positions on our 2026-27 Executive Committee. To date, most candidates are interested in serving another term, but we are looking for a **Treasurer** and one **Member-at-Large**. The Treasurer is a vital position for the Chapter. We are not able to have a Chapter without a Treasurer. If you have any financial interest or experience, please consider stepping forward. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Also note that the current Treasurer, Kathy O’Connor, will be available to answer questions throughout your term.

The current candidates are: **President** – Scott Darby; **1st VP (Membership)** – Chuck Caloia; **2nd VP (Legislation)** – David Carmack; **Secretary** – Ted Hull; **Treasurer** - VACANT; **Chaplain** – Margaret Clark; and **Service Officer** – Chuck Caloia. There is one **Member-at-Large** position coming Vacant. The other two Member-at-Large positions have terms which will end next year – J.D. Brooks and Jeanine Young.

The functioning of Chapter 409 requires only a little time and effort on the part of a few volunteers, who together form our Executive Committee. The Committee usually meets over Zoom on the Thursday before the Chapter’s monthly meeting. If you are able to volunteer or want more information, please contact Nominating Committee Chair, Peter Alvestad by email at Alvestad@aol.com.



President Scott Darby presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Professor Guillermo Warley

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

February 2026

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February 2026 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.
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
Feb 10	County Executive Jessica Fitzwater	The role of the County Executive and opportunities for volunteering
Mar 10	James Carpenter	Braver Angels , the nation's largest cross-partisan, volunteer-led movement to bridge the partisan divide and strengthen our democratic republic
Thursday, Apr 16	Delegate Kenneth P. Kerr, Ed.D (District 3, Frederick County)	Maryland General Assembly session update
May 12	Representative of charity donation recipient	New officers' installation, charity donation, memorial service
Jun 9	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.