



# May 2026 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 12 at 11:00 AM >>

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

Last month's speaker, Maryland Delegate **Kenneth Kerr, Ed.D.**, spoke about the 2026 General Assembly. It was an overview of bills that were passed and how bills failed to pass by inactivity in the last few days of the term.

This month's speaker will be **Leslie Schultz**, Founder and Executive Director of **SOAR** (Supporting Older Adults through Resources, Inc.). The Charity Committee selected this organization to receive this year's charity donation. I would like to thank the committee for their work on this selection. The members of the committee were **Peter Alvestad**, **Kathy O'Connor**, and **Kathy Siggins**.

Also, this month's meeting will be the swearing-in of the new officers for 2026-27 and our memorial service for members who have passed over the last 12 months. Thank you to **Kathy O'Connor** and **Ronnie Osterman** for serving our organization, Kathy as Treasurer and Ronnie as a Member-at-Large. **Larry Lange** will be the new Treasurer, and **Beverly Rynex** will be the new Member-at-Large. Both hold dual roles in NARFE – Larry is the Maryland Federation Chaplain, and Beverly is the Congressional District Leader for District 6. This is how NARFE survives – volunteers! Thanks to all our volunteers, officers, and committee members.

I got hoodwinked! There were no Old Bay Peeps – it was AI. 😊

On a personal note, I had to get a new checking account because I was having money taken out for a medical company. I also was given a new Medicare card because 1.3 million numbers were "compromised". I just got a letter from Medstar that they were hacked. You can do everything correctly and still must worry about your personal information. I was going to say be careful, I was, and it still happened.

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

<b>Balance available to Chapter 409 as of Mar 20, 2026</b> . . . . .	<b>\$6,417.29</b>
• Income . . . . .	\$496.00
• Expenses . . . . .	\$132.50
<b>Balance available to Chapter 409 as of Apr 21, 2026</b> . . . . .	<b>\$6,780.79</b>

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

As this is being written, the Government shutdown is not over yet. The Senate has adopted a budget resolution aimed at clearing the path to fund immigration agencies (e.g., ICE and Border Patrol) in an effort to end the two-month plus shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). This resolution provides for the funding of ICE and the Border Patrol through the end of President Trump's term in office. It is now up to the House of Representatives to pass a bill to fund DHS. The money redirected from other purposes by President Trump to fund that Department is set to run out by the end of May.



President Darby presents Certificate of Appreciation to Delegate Kerr

In the meantime, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has reduced its Retirement Services Division workforce by about 100 people due to departures, retirements, and cancelled hires. This slows down its ability to process retirement applications and answer inquiries, among other things. OPM has recently released a notice of its intentions to collect data from carriers providing Federal Employee Health benefits and Postal Service Employee Health benefits on service utilization and costs, including medical and pharmacy claims. NARFE finds very disturbing the United States Postal Service's suspension of its employee contribution to the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) in order to fund current postal operations. NARFE says that this sets a dangerous precedent for secure funding of postal and federal retirees' pensions.

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

According to the NARFE National database as of April 21, Chapter 409 has 308 members. We welcome new members, **Marilys Gilbert** and **Jay Shareef**. When it comes to NARFE's advocacy for the interests of federal employees and retirees, there's strength in numbers. The stronger NARFE's membership numbers, the more effective NARFE can be in advocating for us. Please help NARFE remain strong! Stay with NARFE and Chapter 409 and spread the word to others eligible for membership. The NARFE magazine, the Chapter's newsletter, and our Welcome brochure are great recruiting tools. Feel free to ask me for copies!

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

**Robert Bronaugh Morrow, Jr.**, 92, passed away on March 5. He is survived by his devoted wife of over 68 years, **Kay Kirkland Morrow**. **Richard Graham Long**, 98, passed away on March 8. He is survived by his four children and a granddaughter. **Edmund W. Mauzy**, 91, passed away on March 15. He is survived by his devoted wife of 68 years, **Mary Ann Mauzy**, also a Chapter 409 member.

We keep in touch with **J.D. Brooks**, **Jeanette Todd**, and **Vicki Yanez** for medical reasons. In case of illness or death, please notify me at the phone number above or by email at [mclark615@verizon.net](mailto:mclark615@verizon.net). Thank you!

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

Did you know the local Lions Club loans medical equipment such as wheelchairs as a service to the community? For borrowing information, contact **Jeannine Young** on 301-466-0244. Jeannine, a member of both Chapter 409 and the Lions, brought this valuable resource to our attention. Thanks, Jeannine!



Frederick Chapter 409, Inc. of NARFE  
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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.**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Speaker / Organization</b>	<b>Program</b>
May 12	Leslie Schultz, Founder and Executive Director of SOAR	New officers' installation, memorial service, charity donation
Jun 9	<i>BINGO</i> <i>BINGO</i> <i>BINGO</i>	<i>BINGO</i> <i>BINGO</i> <i>BINGO</i>

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

NARFE Alzheimer's National Committee sets a new goal of \$18 million for the NARFE-Alzheimer's Research Fund to be reached by December 2028. Congratulations to our NARFE members for exceeding our National Goal of \$17 million in March 2026, earlier than our projected date of December 2026. A very special thank you to all our NARFE members who made this happen through their generous donations to the Alzheimer's Association in support of the NARFE-Alzheimer's Research Fund. ☺

**Newsletter Editor's Report** (Dan Grauman • 301-806-5999)

The Chapter Executive Committee will spend the months of July and August seeking speakers for our 2026-27 season. If you have any suggestions for a speaker, please contact President Scott Darby at the phone number or email address shown at the top of the first page. Thank you!

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