



# B-CC BUZZ

Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chapter 258 - Chartered November 10, 1953  
National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

September–October 2010

## President's Corner

By the time you read this newsletter, summer will be almost over. However, the Chapter Board of Directors was not idle during the summer hiatus. As the representative for the Maryland Federation of NARFE at a fundraiser for State Senator Brian Frosh, I had some private moments with the Senator. At other summer events, I also spoke with Delegates Frick and Lee. At each of these gatherings, I asked our representatives to support issues currently important to their senior constituents. Other chapter members also made contacts with candidates for local and state offices.

In July, I attended the Maryland Federation meeting of chapter delegates to the NARFE National Convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Our September meeting will be devoted to the results from the convention. One highly likely outcome is that convention delegates will vote for membership dues increase. I will report on the amount of the increase and other actions taken at the convention.

Beginning in September the Chapter Board meetings will change location\*. I have arranged (at the suggestion of Judy Welles) to hold our board meetings—gratis—at the Dennis and Phillip Ratner Museum, 10001 Old Georgetown Rd., Bethesda, Md. The remaining board meetings for 2010, September through December, will be held in the Carriage House behind the Museum. (See “Save the Dates” for additional information.) Since the board does not meet in January, we will decide at a later date whether to continue to meet at the Ratner Museum. This applies only to board meetings. Reminder, all chapter members are invited to attend. Our regular monthly chapter meetings will continue to be at Alfio's Restaurant in Chevy Chase.

\*(Reason for change: Until recently the board held its meeting at no charge in a room at the Lawson Community Center in Chevy Chase. Now the Center is charging \$20 per hour for this space.)

At the last Maryland Federation Board meeting, I had private discussions with other chapter representatives about NARFE's future. The outlook is not good. A number of ideas were discussed: for instance, combining chapters into one chapter in each county, becoming a national organization with federations but no chapters, and allowing NARFE to cease existing. The last idea is unthinkable for me. I will ask the Maryland Federation President to put this subject on the agenda for the next Federation Board of Directors meeting.

Next year will be critical for Chapter 258. In December, I will appoint a Nominating Committee. Under our bylaws, the immediate past President must chair that Committee. Along with our immediate past President Lionel Pasiuk, I would like two other members to join Lionel. We must have nominees for President, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. I hope our members will consider being candidates for one of these offices so we can keep Chapter 258 alive.

*Gordon Brown, President*

## September 17- National Convention Report

At the September 17 meeting, Gordon Brown, chapter delegate, will have attended the NARFE National Convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan during August 29 through September 2, 2010. Gordon will present a summary of the meeting. He will announce newly elected NARFE officers and pertinent actions taken by the members in attendance. This meeting will bring the chapter up to date on NARFE activities.

## October 15-The Immigration Debate

Don Mooers, a nationally acclaimed Immigration Attorney based in Bethesda, will share his insights on immigration law and policy, with special emphasis on how the 2010 immigration debate will likely develop.

Immigration reform is reportedly on the President's 2010 legislative agenda for Congress. Immigration law is extremely complex and solving America's broken system defies easy answers. The related topics of immigration and visas to the US bring out strong emotions among Americans from coast-to-coast.

Often missing in the immigration debate is a review of facts and figures about the actual status of current US immigration law and policy and, for us, demographic information about our county's own population of recent immigrants and the role they play in our county. Mr. Mooers will help us separate fact from fiction in this area.

Donald Mooers focuses solely on the practice of immigration and nationality law. His nationwide clients include international non-profits, high and low-tech businesses, educational institutions and individuals. He serves as the immigration expert for various media outlets, and also hosts Montgomery Week in Review on Montgomery Community Television. A graduate of the George Washington University Law School, Mooers was a Fulbright Scholar and served in the Clinton Administration, on Capitol Hill and overseas.

[In February, Mr. Mooers had been scheduled to speak to us on this timely topic, but the meeting was canceled due to record snowstorms. We are fortunate to have been able to reschedule Don.]

## Legislative Report

Election Update-Maryland Primary Election-Sept 14 2010

The NARFE State Legislative Committee has identified three priority issues that NARFE will strongly support during the 2011 General Assembly session in Annapolis in January.

- Equalize the dollar value for the senior exemption for all seniors over 65 or blind
- Allow an annual tax credit for payment of long-term care insurance premiums
- Reduce the property tax burden on senior home owners

There are 16 individuals running for the three House of Delegates seats in our District 16 and two individuals running for the single Senate seat. All of the House of Delegates candidates are Democrats and the two Senate candidates are split Democrat/Republican.

The Maryland NARFE Legislative Committee has mailed questionnaires to all of the above candidates asking for their positions on the NARFE priority issues. The results are as follows: House of Delegates candidates; Charlie Chester, Bill Farley, Hrant Jamgochian, Kyle Lierman, and Susan Lee (incumbent) all indicated that they would support the issues. The balance of the candidates did not reply. It is noted that incumbent Bill Frick did not reply; however, he was a supporter of NARFE issues during the 2010 session. Incumbent Senator Brian Frosh and Senate candidate Jerry Cave did not reply.

*Laurin Knutson, 2nd V. President*

## NARFE Birthday

NARFE celebrated the 90th year of the organization with a grand kick-off at the National Convention in Grand Rapids, MI, August 29-September 2. NARFE was founded in February 1921 by a group of 14 retired civil servants who were looking to better the status of federal retirees. At the time, federal annuities were capped at \$60 a month, but many retirees were receiving as little as \$15 a month.

Today the Association boasts more than 300,000 members and has expanded to include active federal employees as well as retirees. With a slight change in its name, National Active and Retired Federal Employees association, NARFE continues to work to enhance and protect the retirement benefits of federal workers.

## SAVE THE DATES!

**Sept. 13** - Monday Executive Board Meeting  
10:00 am Ratner Museum [NEW]  
**Sept. 17** - Friday Chapter Meeting/Program  
presentation ~ 12:30 pm  
NARFE National Convention  
summary

**Oct. 4** - Monday Executive Board Meeting  
10:00 am Ratner Museum [NEW]

**Oct. 15** - Friday Chapter Meeting/Program  
presentation ~ 12:30 pm  
The Immigration Debate

Lunch at 11:30 am (fixed menu) at Alfio's La Trattoria Restaurant \$14.00 (pay at restaurant). Alfio's La Trattoria, 4515 Willard Ave. (Willoughby Building) between Wisconsin Ave. and River Rd., in Friendship Heights. Free valet parking. Restaurant is walking distance to the Friendship Heights Metro and bus services

All are welcomed to attend Chapter 258 Executive Board meetings on Mondays at the Dennis and Philip Ratner Museum located at 10001 Old Georgetown Road, intersection of Old Georgetown and Lone Oak Road. Parking available on site. The board will meet in the Carriage House behind the Museum.

## Save Dates to November Calendar:

- Chapter Meeting, Friday, November 12: Evan R. Winik, a Certified Financial Planner and Financial Advisor with Merrill Lynch will be the speaker.
- Congressman Chris Van Hollen's 8th Annual Federal Employees Health Benefit Forums:
  - Monday, November 15, 9 am – 11 am at Holiday Park Senior Center
  - Thursday, November 18, 7 pm – 9 pm at Montgomery County Executive Office Building

Did you know that there is a Maryland Gerontological Association? The Web site is: [www.mdgerontology.org](http://www.mdgerontology.org)  
This organization will be cosponsoring events with United Seniors of Maryland.

## NARFE Membership

Welcome to the following new members who joined since July 2010. Meet other members at Chapter 258 monthly meetings: Julia Bail, Lyndon K. Boozer, George Chrousos, Alice M. Cohen, Inge Enzinger, William Gressman, Lisa K. Hemmer, Paul L. Johnson, Maureen H. Killion, Alan Klavans, Christine B. Krutsch, Howard Lesser, Claudia Lipschultz, Christy L. Ludlow, Donald R. Lundy, Deborah Murphy, Zehra Postacioglu, Marcus Rodin, Elsa B. Silverman, Jean Sipe, Ira Sockowitz, Ingrid M. Sunzenauer, Cynthia Whitman and John N. Whitmore.

We welcome back the following members: Lavonia A Brown, Lars A. Hanslin, Louise Hunt, David J. Mason, Betty H. Masket, Barbara Orden, James M. Ready, Edward J. Reidy, Everlyn Rogot, Evelyn R. Royal, Irving Saginor, Stuart A. Sirkin, Linda C. Slan, Harry R. Woltman and Leepo Yu.

## Our Sympathy

Our deepest sympathies to the families and friends of chapter members who have passed away since July 2010: James Andrias, Joseph Chek, Harry Krantz (former chapter president), Walter J. Leight and Hiroshi Taniuchi.

In recognition: Frederick K. Rabel, who passed away in December 2009, was a longtime member and financial guide of our Bethesda-Chevy Chase chapter. In 1982 Fred served as the chapter's assistant treasurer. In 1984 until 2008, he served as chapter auditor. In 1989, he guided Katherine (Kit) Clements as she assumed the role as Chapter Treasurer. Fred and Kit became a dynamic team, meticulously protecting the financial health of the chapter. On those occasions when Fred's illnesses prevented him from leaving his house, he and Kit would continue to work at his home. In addition, Fred was also a longtime financial manager for his church. He will be deeply missed.

258 is looking for a volunteer for the position as Service Officer, currently held by Nora Taylor. Nora willing gladly train whoever volunteers. Access to Internet and email are the only requirements.

## Consumer's Corner

### Property Tax Relief Deadline Extended to November 1, 2010

Eligible Montgomery County residents are encouraged to apply for the Maryland Homeowner's Property Tax Credit program, which limits the amount of property taxes a homeowner must pay based on income. An additional County supplement and a senior tax credit will automatically apply to eligible County residents. For a senior tax credit, residents must be age 70 or older. No additional application is required for either the County supplement or the senior tax credit. The deadline for the state application submission has been extended to November 1, 2010.

To get further information for eligibility and an application form, call the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT) at 1-800-944-7403, or download the form & instructions from SDAT Web site at <http://www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/htc.html>

### Older Driver Safety

You may be interested in the totally revamped information on Older Driver Safety which has just been posted on the Motor Vehicle Administration's (MVA) Web site. You can check it out directly at <http://www.mva.maryland.gov> On the Web site you will find Driver Safety section for additional information.

### Credit Card Lost or Stolen

If your credit or debit card is lost or stolen, you want to report it right away to the card issuer – a bank, credit union or organization – so you can cancel it. The rub, of course, is that the telephone number you need is on the back of the card. There's a new Web site, [www.cancelthatcard.com](http://www.cancelthatcard.com), which lists telephone numbers to call for Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover. If you have access to a computer, your cell phone or other electronic gizmo that connects to the Internet, you're in business.

*By Lynn G. Barclay*

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**September 17- Summary of NARFE  
National Convention  
October 12-The Immigration Debate:  
Separating Facts from Fiction**

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**Audit**  
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**Sunshine**  
OPEN

**Hospitality**  
OPEN

**Past Presidents**  
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Bill Goldwater

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