



National Active and Retired Federal Employees
Association
**Northern Prince George's County Maryland
Chapter 1122**

*Beltsville, Berwyn Heights, College Park, Cheverly, Glenarden,
Glenn Dale, Greenbelt, Hyattsville, Landover Hills, Lanham,
New Carrollton and Seabrook*

Website: www.mdnarfe.org/chapter1122

NARFE Chapter 1122
7021 Mathew Street
Greenbelt, MD 20770-3004

February 2010

Volume 4, Number 2

NARFE's Legislative Program for the 111th Congress 2009-2010 Part I

Dr. Howard Waterworth, 1st Vice President & Legislative Chair

NARFE's legislative program is crafted by its members at their annual conference each year. Through a resolution procedure originating at the local chapters, the process culminates at the national convention in specific legislative policy goals. They become our legislative program for the next Congress. These goals were adopted by delegates at the 30th Biennial National Convention held September 7-12, 2009 in Louisville, Kentucky. The program is ordered into three categories to illustrate their priority as legislative goals:

1. Preserving Existing Benefits,
2. Encourage legislation to enhance benefits to NARFE's membership, and
3. Other key positions.

1. Preserving Existing Benefits:

- Economic Security: Federal Civil Service Annuities - Continue efforts to support COLAs for all federally administered retirement programs on a regular annual schedule paid at the same time regardless of age and/or income level. NARFE opposes across-the-board cuts. NARFE supports a CPI based on BLS analysis by professionals and opposes any politically arbitrary change in the CPI. NARFE **opposes** any action that erodes the solvency of the CS retirement and disability fund, and supports providing full public disclosure of the fiscal stability and financial obligations of the fund.
- Health Security FEHBP - NARFE will continue discussions with key OPM officials regarding premiums, benefits, terms, and conditions and marketing the FEHBPs and **opposes** increases in the co-payment for purchases of prescription drugs in FEHBP by federal annuitants who participate in Medicare. NARFE supports retaining the carryover provisions in current law for flexible spending accounts to ensure that they are not used in conjunction with high deductible catastrophic health insurance to form an alternative version of a health savings account. NARFE **opposes** HSAs, Medicare Savings Accounts, Medical Savings Accounts, 'customer-driven', 'consumer-driven, or 'patient-directed' plans in the FEHBP; also **opposes** expanding participation in FEHBP, unless separate risk pools are created; proposals that would force annuitants into 'cost-

conscious' FEHBP plans, and establishing separately rated health plans for Medicare-participating retirees and survivors.

- Providing Long Term Care - NARFE will participate in the development of the on-going federal long-term care insurance program and supports the guarantee of long-term care benefits for those now eligible for Medicaid, state and federal contributions to Medicaid to finance program needs, standards of care and safety that nursing homes must follow, and Medicaid law which protects spouses of nursing home residents from becoming impoverished.
- Guaranteeing Medicare - NARFE supports protecting Medicare's guarantee of basic health security for seniors at affordable prices, and preserving the current Medicare fee-for-service program including physician of choice, and ensuring that Medicare drug program does not require beneficiaries who receive coverage through other insurance to pay additional premiums. NARFE **opposes** increasing the Medicare eligibility age, home health care co-payments, and schemes that limit the government portion of Medicare premiums through a formula that does not reflect the updated costs of providing health care to beneficiaries.
- Guaranteeing Social Security for Retirees - NARFE **opposes** investment of the Social Security reserves in investments other than Treasury securities and replacing any portion of Social Security benefits with private accounts.
- Preservation of Employer Sponsored Health Insurance - NARFE supports enforcement of provisions in the Age Discrimination in Employment Act to ensure that the same level of coverage be given to all retirees regardless of age.

Next month I will describe part two **Encourage legislation to enhance benefits to NARFE's membership**, and part three **Other key positions** of NARFE's goals for the 111th Congress.

NARFE members can help to ensure that ALL of our benefits will continue next year by letting your congress persons know how you feel about these important issues.



Meeting Agenda

WELCOME

NEW MEMBERS

Lucia B. Coleman
Queenie Ogden
Lynda Patton

New, transferred or reinstated members please come to the NARFE Chapter meetings and get to know your fellow members, get involved, become a committee volunteer or find new ways to help your Chapter become a more active organization.

Thank You To

Our January
Guest Speaker
Cheryl Gomez,
Consultant
with
H & R Block
on
"New Tax Laws
for 2009"

February 10, 2010 Meeting at 1:30 pm



Speaker
Sgt. Pina Blackistone
Community Oriented Policing Services
(C.O.P.S)
Prince George's County
Police Department
"Senior Safety"

Greenbriar Community Building, Terrace Room
7600 Hanover Parkway, Greenbelt, MD 20770
301-441-1096 - Call the Greenbriar Office for directions.



**Our Prayers & Good Wishes
go to all
Sick and Shut-in Chapter
Members**

We hope that a little sunshine peeks thru your window each day, to let you know our thoughts are with you in a very special way.

Monthly Withholding of Federal Taxes Affected by New Brackets

David B. Snell, Director
Retirement Benefit Services, NARFE

Many federal retirees have seen federal tax withholding decrease in their January 1, 2010, annuity payment. The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has told NARFE the changes were a result of changes made by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to the tax brackets, which expanded from six to eight for 2010. Federal tax withholding changes, depending upon which bracket a taxpayer's income now falls.

Questions about the new tax brackets should be referred to the IRS, not OPM. To determine if you have enough federal tax being withheld monthly, OPM offers an easy-to-use federal tax calculator for retirees on its Web site, www.opm.gov. After the 2010 updates are completed, federal retirees can use the calculator under the "Retirees and Families" heading.



IN MEMORIAM

*It is with sadness that we
extend condolences to the
family and friends of*

Robert V. Davies

**EVERY MEMBER GET A
MEMBER TO JOIN NARFE
TODAY!
HELP SAVE OUR
BENEFITS.**

John Lydon Newsletter Distributor Via Email

**News-
letters
On-Line**

Our Chapter is encouraging all its members to receive our newsletter on line. The electronic version of the newsletter is posted on the web site in pdf format in full color and is available much sooner than it typically arrives by mail. To receive a monthly notice by e-mail that our Chapter newsletter is available, send a message to j.lydon@verizon.net please include your full name and address with a request to receive the on-line version of the newsletter via <http://www.mdnarfe.org/chapter1122/>

Treasurer's Report for December 2009

Balance as of 11/30/09	\$1,693.45
Income:	
NARFE Dues (Oct, Nov & Dec)	603.40
12/09 Holiday Luncheon	<u>264.00</u>
Total Income	867.40
Expenses:	
CHI Centers Inc. (Nov. Newsletter Printing)	106.41
Sir Walter Raleigh Inn (12/09 Luncheon)	433.40
U.S. Postal Service (Dec Newsletter Mailing)	<u>75.00</u>
Total Expenses	614.81
Balance as of 12/31/09	\$1,946.04
Submitted: Warren C. Wilcox, Treasurer	



Alzheimer's Corner
Creavery Lloyd, Alzheimer's Chair

THANK YOU to all members for their donations and a very special **THANKS** to all members who made multiple donations. Our Chapter's total donation to ALZ/Lupus Research is **\$1,003**. We came very close to reaching our goal of \$1,300. But the **Good News** - it's still not too late to contribute. You can make a donation of \$2.00 or more and send it to Creavery Lloyd, Alzheimer's Chair, 6725 Lamont Drive, Lanham, MD 20706. Remember your support of this effort helps to accelerate the fight of this disease through research and essential support programs and services. Please include Chapter 1122 on your check and make it payable to: **NARFE ALZ/Lupus Research**.

NARFE Alzheimer's Fundraiser - Chapter 1122
List of Contributors (October thru December 2009)

Jean Arnao	Andrew J. James, Sr.	Patricia L. Mortimer
Elaine R. Bobbitt	Susan F. Jankowski	Irwin Neveleff
Rita C. Boucher	Elizabeth M. Jay	Paul Ollerenshaw
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Hugh J. Gribben	Kathleen G. McGrath	Warren Wilcox
Robert F. Haas	Warren McKay	Margaret D. Zanin
Larry Hull	Joyce Meisegeier	

Important Information for CSRS Retirees Regarding the \$250 Stimulus Tax Credit

If you did not get the \$250 economic recovery payment through Social Security because you are a Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) retiree, you should claim the credit on your 2009 taxes.

Here are the instructions from the Internal Revenue Service Web site:

Government retiree credit. You can take this credit if you receive a pension or annuity payment in 2009 for service performed for the U.S. government or any U.S. state or local government (or any instrumentality of one or more of these) and the service was not covered by Social Security. The credit is \$250 (\$500 if married filing jointly and both you and your spouse receive a qualifying pension or annuity). However, you cannot take the credit if you receive a \$250 economic recovery payment during 2009. If you file a joint return, both you and your spouse receive a qualifying pension or annuity, and both of you receive an economic recovery payment, no government retiree credit is allowed; if only one of you receives an economic recovery payment, the credit is \$250.

Schedule M. Generally, you will use new Schedule M (Form 1040A or 1040) to figure the government retiree credit. The credit is refundable, which means it is treated like payments you made and may give you a refund even if you had no tax withheld from your pension.



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DO NOT DELAY DELIVERY

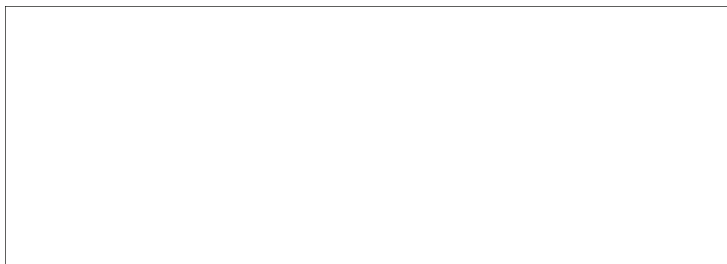
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Chapter 1122 Website
www.mdnarfe.org/chapter1122

MD Federation Website
www.mdnarfe.org

NARFE National Website
www.narfe.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Next Meeting

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PAST CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

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Robert F. Haas
John Fleming

Chapter 2146
Irwin Neveleff
Marty Eiband
Emma E. Barnett

Executive Board Meeting
 Wednesday, February 3, 2010 at 12 Noon
 Royal Jade Restaurant
 Greenbelt Road and Hanover Parkway, Greenbelt, MD

Important Telephone Numbers

NARFE National Headquarters (Direct Line) 1-703-838-7760
 NARFE Sponsored Line to Congress 1-866-220-0044

To contact Maryland Delegates and Representatives
 Call 301-858-3000 or visit the NARFE Web Site

www.mdnarfe.org

To reach the Governor call
 1-800-811-8336 or visit the Web Site **www.gov.state.md.us/mail**

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Anthony G. Brown, Lieutenant Governor	410-767-3125
Thomas Mike Miller, Jr., Pres./Senate	301-858-3700
Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House	301-858-3800
Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD)	202-224-4654
Senator Benjamin L. Cardin (D-MD)	202-224-4524
Congressman Steny Hoyer (D-5th Dist.)	202-225-4131
Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards (D-4th Dist.)	202-225-8699
President Barack H. Obama	202-456-1111
White House Web Site:	http://www.whitehouse.gov/

Inclement Weather Notice! When Prince George's County Schools are closed or opening late, the NARFE Chapter 1122 meeting will not be held.