Our Next Chapter Meeting - And Upcoming Events

Our Friday, March 10th Chapter meeting will be at the Mykonos Grill, 121 Congressional Avenue, Rockville, MD; members who wish to come for lunch may arrive at 11:30 a.m., with the meal being served at 12:00 noon. The cost is $25.00 per person, payable either in cash, or checks made out to “Mykonos Grill” (please, no credit cards). Those who do not wish to come for lunch may arrive at 1:00 p.m. Our speaker will be Paul McDermott, Professor Emeritus, Montgomery College, who will speak on the cultural and historical attractions of the Capital region.

PLEASE NOTE: If Montgomery County Public Schools either have a delayed opening or are closed due to inclement weather on the day of either our Chapter Board meeting OR our Chapter membership meeting, that meeting will be cancelled.

Chapter Executive Board meeting, Monday, March 6th, Ledo’s Pizza, 10300 Westlake Drive, Bethesda, MD, 10:00 a.m.

March Chapter meeting, Friday, March 10th, will be at the Mykonos Grill, 121 Congressional Avenue, Rockville, MD.

2017 NARFE Legislative Training Conference, March 12th - 15th, Hilton Mark Center, Alexandria, VA.

Chapter Executive Board meeting, Monday, April 10th, Ledo’s Pizza, 10300 Westlake Drive, Bethesda, MD, 10:00 a.m.

April Chapter meeting, Friday, April 14th, will be at the Mykonos Grill, 121 Congressional Avenue, Rockville, MD.

MD Federation's Biennial State Convention, April 30 to May 2, Holiday Inn, Oceanfront, Ocean City, MD.

Chapter Executive Board meeting, Monday, May 8th, Ledo’s Pizza, 10300 Westlake Drive, Bethesda, MD, 10:00 a.m.

May Chapter meeting, Friday, May 12th, will be at the Mykonos Grill, 121 Congressional Avenue, Rockville, MD. At this meeting will be election of Chapter 258 Officers, and our annual MD State Legislators Forum.

PRESIDENT’S CORNER
Charles Garfinkel

With the 115th Congress underway, it is important to keep track of the priorities unfolding in the legislature and the new administration. Stay informed about postal reform, the federal hiring freeze, proposed changes to the civil service and the workings of critical congressional committees. NARFE is reporting that they strongly oppose House Bill H.R. 756, the Postal Reform Act of 2017 because it unfairly places the burden of fixing the Postal Service’s financial issues on the backs of its retirees. The bill would require current postal retirees to enroll in Medicare, or face losing their Federal Employees Health Benefits Program coverage. Having to enroll in Medicare would cost them additional monies. More importantly, it sets a dangerous precedent that could lead to future harm for the rest of the Federal community. Make your voice heard in Congress. NARFE members are encouraged to use NARFE’s new, easy to use Legislative Action Center to send letters to members of Congress on a variety of NARFE related bills and votes (utilizing your NARFE member I.D. number, sign onto www.narfe.org; move your cursor, on the blue bar, to “Departments” – a list will appear; click on “Legislation”).

President Trump signed a presidential memorandum directing a review of the Department of Labor’s (DOL) conflict of interest or “fiduciary” rule. The memo requires the DOL to examine the rule to determine whether it should be rescinded or revised. The fiduciary rule requires investment brokers to put their clients’ best interests first when giving investment advice. The fiduciary rule’s initial compliance date is April 10, 2017, but DOL may issue a new rule delaying that date while it starts the longer regulatory process of rescinding or revising the fiduciary rule.

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For members who missed the February 10th meeting the speaker was Paul Schwartz, Chair, NARFE’s Maryland Federation’s State Legislative Committee (SLC). Paul talked about a tax credit for seniors proposed by Governor Hogan in his 2016 State Budget. While the Governor did not include a tax credit in the proposed State Budget for 2017, Paul was meeting with legislators and the Comptroller, and gave testimony before the House of Delegates in Annapolis in support of a tax credit for seniors age 65 and over. In his testimony, Paul said he stressed that seniors spend money and in doing so, the State benefits from the sales tax. The SLC is pursuing two specific initiatives: 1. Make Maryland the top retirement choice for Marylanders and other retirees in the Mid-Atlantic Region; and 2. Provide a Long-Term Care Insurance incentive to reduce Maryland’s Medicaid burden. Both the Chapter and Maryland Federation’s SLC are asking members living in state to call or write to their Legislators requesting that they support a tax credit for seniors. Also, consider supporting the SLC’s two specific initiatives mentioned above.

For our March 10, 2017 meeting the speaker will be Paul McDermott, professor at Montgomery College. Paul will talk about historical and cultural attractions in the Capital Region. The program is based on a book of the same name and includes visual aids.

The Maryland Federation of NARFE Chapters will be conducting its 43rd State Convention at the Holiday Inn Oceanfront in Ocean City, starting Sunday evening April 30, through Tuesday, May 2nd, 6600 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, Maryland. The purpose of the biennial Convention is to elect officers for the next two-year period, discuss resolutions germane to the Federation, and to exchange views with senior Federal and Maryland State officials on issues related to the protection and enhancement of current and retired Federal employees’ earned benefits. In addition, there will be workshops on legislative and membership issues. Anyone interested in attending, please let me know; registrations are due April 4th. Hotel reservations must be made by attendees by Friday, March 31, 2017, after which the special NARFE convention discounted rate ($69) may not be available. The cost of registration before April 4th is $45 per person and includes two luncheons. After that date the costs is $50. The banquet on Monday evening is $45.

March is NARFE-PAC Month, and a major fundraising month. NARFE-PAC helps provide funding for lobbying for legislation to protect and support Federal employees and retirees. With all the attacks on Federal pay and benefits expected with the 115 Congress, I suggest giving to NARFE-PAC, but it is a personal choice. NARFE is officially into the new 2017-18 election cycle. Contributions help build strong relationships with lawmakers and are a key component in winning legislative fights. In addition, pooling individual contributions can maximize NARFE’s effect. The March 2017 issue of narfe magazine will include a wrap with a form and envelope that members can use to send in contributions.

The National Park Service turned 100 years old! Celebrate the start of their second century by visiting a National Park in 2017. During ten days of the year, all National Park Service sites that charge an entrance fee will offer fee-free admission to everyone. Plan your visits during 2017 and enjoy America’s history and nature by visiting a National Park. The fee-free days remaining in 2017 are April 15-16 and 22-23: Weekends of National Park Week; August 25: National Park Service Birthday; September 30: National Public Lands Day; and November 11-12: Veterans Day Weekend. National parks are America’s best idea, with more than 400 parks available to everyone. The fee-free days provide a great opportunity to visit a new place or an old favorite.

Maryland Taxable Retirement Income Form 502R is new for 2016; Marylanders filing Form 502 also must file Form 502R. The form is used for reporting the various types of retirement income you have included in Federal Adjusted Gross Income for yourself and spouse on the Federal Form 1040. Form 502R is available on the State of MD Comptroller’s website: Go to www.comp.state.md.us; click on the purple bar entitled “Individual Tax Forms” – a drop-down menu of all the forms will appear; scroll down to 502R - Taxable Retirement Income. Clicking on that form number will cause it to appear on your PC’s screen and allow you to print it.

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Save money with NARFE Perks. At the end of the
narfe magazine are coupons from Affinity Partners,
to assist members with travel planning or selected
purchases.

This is the time of year when a number of our
members leave the area either for a few weeks or
months. To ensure that those members receiving a
paper copy of the newsletter (NL) continue to receive
their NL, as well as reduce the cost of handling returned
newsletters, members with e-mail addresses can request
the newsletter be delivered electronically while they are
away, or provide their temporary address to a member
of the Board. Your membership is important to the
Chapter. So, don’t miss the newsletter.

Also, for those members making a permanent move,
please provide your new address to NARFE, either at
606 N. Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314, or call
Member Records at (1-800-456-8410), or login to the
NARFE website (www.narfe.org). Click on Update My
Records (Under: What you can do online) and follow the
instructions. A password is needed to access the NARFE
system.

TREASURER’S REPORT
Larry Lange, Treasurer

Chapter 258, Funds Summary, February 6, 2017
Checking Account balance, 1/9/17              $ 12,439.17
Receipts, 1/9/17 - 2/6/17                      $  960.08
Expenses, 1/9/17 - 2/6/17                     $ 1,180.47
Checking Account balance, 1/9/17              $ 12,218.78
Working Capital/Total Chapter assets          $ 12,218.78

MEMBERSHIP REPORT
Dick Strombotne, Membership Chair
DickS.narfe@comcast.net

Chapter 258 Membership For Period
15 January to 14 February 2017

Welcome to New Members.
Marylin Pierre and Dean Wiles.

Welcome Back These Reinstated Members since

February 2017
Chandini Bachman, Edwin A Hollins, Michael Katz,
Barbara Orden, Ernest Roland Plante, and Carl Schultz.

Deceased Member.
C Lloyd Anderson.

If you know any of the dropped members listed below,
do them a service and invite them to rejoin NARFE.

Members Dropped in February 2017.
Milton Belardo, Joseph J Bishow, David F Fitzgerald,
Richard T Kilby, Richard C Lee, Ruth Lee, Howard
Lesser, William Joseph Morris, Jean D Pearce, Maxwell M
Rogers, Annesley Schmidt, Wendy Smith, and Richard
E Tuck.

(L to R) Chapter president Charlie Garfinkel; Paul Schwartz, MD NARFE State
Legislative Committee Chair and the speaker at our February 10th chapter
meeting; Dave Richman, Chapter 258 State Legislative Committee member

(L to R) Chapter president Charlie Garfinkel gives Paul Schwartz, the speaker at
our February 10th chapter meeting, a copy of 258 member Judy Welles’ book,
Cabin John – Legends and Life of an Uncommon Place
The speaker at our March 10th Chapter meeting will be Paul McDermott, Professor Emeritus, Montgomery College, who will speak on the cultural and historical attractions of the Capital region.