

National Active & Retired Federal Employees Assoc.  
 NARFE  
 Chapter 1734  
 6477 Haviland Mill Rd,  
 Clarksville, Md. 21029-1316

Non-Profit Org.  
 U.S. Postage  
 PAID

Permit No. 19  
 Columbia, MD 21045

-----  
**Time Value Mail**  
**Next Meeting**  
**June 16th 2010**  
 -----




---

***National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association***  
*Serving over 1000 Federal annuitants and their families in Howard County*

**Howard County Chapter 1734 News & Notes**

**June 2010**

NEXT MEETING: *Wed, 16 June*                      *Luncheon*                      *11:30*                      *Senior 50+*

**OFFICERS**

President – Jim McConnell	301-854-3742	Service Officer – Stephen Huza	410-381-5319
Past President – Robert O’Brien	410-964-1894	Service Officer – William Kelly	410-465-4065
VP-Memb. – Burdelle Dowdell	301-596-2916	PR Chair – Stuart Hirsch	410-309-4997
VP-Fed. Leg. – Robert O’Brien	410-964-1894	Luncheon Chair – Burdelle Dowdell	301-596-2916
VP-State Leg. – Carole Graves	410-312-9140	Alzheimer’s Chair – Sue Neri	410-381-7140
Secretary – Natalie C. Yopconka	410-740-8837	Welcome – Joel Turner	410-964-2607
Treasurer – Herbert Johl	410-730-6788	Telephone Tree – Joy Cohen	410-740-0481
Sunshine – Natalie C. Yopconka	410-740-8837	Newsletter Editor – Sethanne Howard	410-730-8659
Auditor – Ed Kuespert	410-465-1384	Newsletter Mailing – Sue Neri	410-381-7140
Program Chair – Bob Wesloh	410-531-6961	Newsletter Mailing – Burdelle Dowdell	301-596-2916

**IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

Sen. Barbara Mikulski	410-962-4510	e-mail: on web at <a href="http://www.mikulski.senate.gov">www.mikulski.senate.gov</a>
Sen. Ben Cardin	410-962-4436	e-mail: on web at <a href="http://www.cardin.senate.gov">www.cardin.senate.gov</a>
Rep. John Sarbanes	410-295-1679	e-mail: <a href="http://www.sarbanes.house.gov">www.sarbanes.house.gov</a>
Rep. Elijah Cummings	410-685-9199	e-mail: <a href="mailto:rep.cummings@mail.house.gov">rep.cummings@mail.house.gov</a>
NARFE HOTLINE	703-838-7780	White House e-mail: <a href="mailto:president@whitehouse.gov">president@whitehouse.gov</a>

**NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED  
FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION**

*News & Notes*

**Chapter 1734  
June 2010**

**Howard County  
Maryland**

**President's Message:            Jim McConnell**

National Convention:

Chapter 1734 can send 20 delegates to the National Convention in Grand Rapids, MI, August 29-September 2. To date one person from our chapter has registered, made hotel reservations and told me. If you decide to go, tell me as I will have to designate you as a delegate and notify Headquarters who the delegates are from our chapter. The delegates debate and vote on issues related to the NARFE organization and vote for the National Officers. They also have the opportunity to meet and socialize with NARFE members from across the country.

You will be responsible for convention registration, hotel registration, meals and transportation. See the NARFE magazine for registration and reservation information. In the past, the chapter has helped defray the expenses of the delegates. The deadline to go as a delegate is to have your name to me no later than 18 June 2010. My e-mail address is jimind2003@yahoo.com, phone number is under list of officers and address is on the front of the newsletter.

This June newsletter is the last one until September 2010 and it is being prepared before our chapter elections. We do have a full slate of candidates and those elected will be sworn in at the June 16<sup>th</sup> luncheon.

Candidates:

President	Robert Wesloh
VP Membership	Burdelle Dowdell
VP Federal Legislation	Frank Chase
VP State Legislation	Carole Graves
Secretary	Barbara Conley
Treasurer	James McConnell

I thank all of our officers, elected and appointed, past and present for the help and support they have given me and our chapter.

Thanks, also to you, our members who volunteer, provide input and suggestions and respond to keep our benefits largely untouched. Keep up the good work.

JAM

---

**CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Location</u>
16 June	11:30`´´´	Luncheon	Bare Bones Grill
29 Aug – 2 Sept		National Convention	Grand Rapids, MI
15 September	10:00	Business Meeting	Senior 50+

\*\*\*\*\*

\*

**Welcome New Members!** We welcome all of the retirees, spouses, and especially current federal government employees who have recently joined or re-joined NARFE. Please attend our meetings and luncheons so that we can meet you and so that you can find out more about NARFE on the local level. It is the local Chapter level that drives the NARFE national agenda.

Business meetings start at 10:00 AM followed by a speaker. There is usually a social half hour starting at 9:30 AM. Business meetings are held in September, November, January, March, and May. Luncheons typically start at 11:30 AM and are held in October, December, February, April, and June. There are no meetings or luncheons in July and August.

Chapter meetings or luncheons are held on the third Wednesday, September through June, and are canceled whenever Howard County Schools are delayed or canceled due to weather. Dues and contributions to NARFE are not deductible as charitable contributions for income tax purposes.

Remember that there are no newsletters in July and August. The next newsletter will be in September. The newsletter library crew will meet 31 August.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Our chapter web site is**  
[www.narfe.org/chapter1734](http://www.narfe.org/chapter1734)

\*\*\*\*\*

**NARFE Applauds Senator Cardin for Introducing Bill to Speed the Extension of Health Coverage for Children of Federal Employees and Annuitants to Age 26.** In addition, NARFE thanked Senators Barbara A. Mikulski, D-MD, Susan Collins, R-ME, Mark Warner, D-VA, John Kerry, D-MA, Jay Rockefeller, D-WV, Daniel Akaka, D-HI, Tim Johnson, D-SD, Jeff Bingaman, D-NM, Ted Kaufman, D-DE, Mary Landrieu, D-LA, and Debbie Stabenow, D-MI, for also sponsoring the "Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) Dependent Coverage Extension Act." Rep. Chris Van Hollen, D-MD, introduced the House version of the bill on May 4. The comprehensive health care legislation recently

signed into law includes a requirement that, by September 2010, group health plans cover dependent children on their parents' health insurance up to age 26. While many insurers have decided to extend dependent coverage even before the September deadline, the law authorizing the FEHBP prevents the Office of Personnel Management from allowing federal workers and annuitants to extend coverage for their dependent children until January 2011.

Cardin's and Van Hollen's bills would resolve this inequity by amending the FEHBP law so that coverage may be extended to young adults during the current contract year.

**NARFE President Urges Member**

**Action:** Amid her state federation convention travel, NARFE President Margaret L. Baptiste continues to urge each NARFE member to participate in the current campaign to defend our earned benefits. "I urge each NARFE member eager to save his or her retirement benefits to use the Legislative Action Center on the NARFE web site to send a new message to your Representative and two Senators." (the specific link is <http://capwiz.com/narfe/issues/alert/?alertid=14982226>.)

## State Legislative Report – Carole Graves

**2009 General Assembly Review** At the April 12 NARFE State Legislative Committee (SLC) meeting, Chairman Bill Ferguson reviewed the 2009 General Assembly Session. Ferguson reported that NARFE priority bills (closing the senior tax deduction gap and getting an annual tax credit for long-term care premiums) did not even get a vote in committee. House Ways and Means Committee Chair Sheila Hixson announced after hearings were completed that she would not consider any bill with a price tag.

On the positive side, two bills did pass that NARFE supported with testimony: the Maryland False Health Claims Act of 2010 and the Durable Power of Attorney Act. The House and Senate hearings on equalizing the income tax exemption for those 65 and older (Seniors Tax Relief Act) were well-attended by 20 to 25 NARFE members each, the best showing in recent years. There were few members at other hearings. USM members testified on our bills and *vice versa*, members of like-minded organizations did not testify. Some SLC members commented that they found the legislators to be dismissive.

Ferguson said he discovered that many legislators were not receiving Chapter newsletters. Bill will send an e-mail to Chapter Presidents reminding them to send their newsletters to their respective Delegates, Senators, and the Governor if they are not already doing so.

SLC will begin preparing for the Maryland primary election, which will be held on September 14. Letters need to be sent to all candidates before the primary to ascertain whether or not they will support our legislative initiatives. The responses will be sent to Chapters for inclusion in their August or September newsletters.

**MD-PAC:** At the April SLC meeting, there was lively discussion on increasing the limit on the maximum amount (currently \$100) MD-PAC can donate to legislators and candidates. Dave Roseman, Treasurer of MD-PAC, moved to raise the maximum amount to \$300 per year. The motion was approved by the SLC.

The current MD-PAC balance is \$5,132.50. NARFE members are encouraged to contribute by sending a check payable to MD/PAC to Dave Roseman, 6 Thornton Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20878.

\*\*\*\*\*



**Bare Bones**  
**Bare Bones Grill & Brewery**  
**9150-22 Baltimore Natl. Pike**  
**Ellicott City, MD 21042**  
**11:30 AM**  
**Wednesday, June 16<sup>th</sup>**

Choose one of the following menu options and put it on your check to mail to Burdelle Dowdelle by June 12<sup>th</sup> at 7235 Procopio Circle, Columbia, MD 21046, tel: 301-596-2916. Make the check out to NARFE/Chapter 1734. Tax and tip included in the price. Each entrée comes with fries and non-alcoholic drink.

Tuna Salad	\$13.80
BBQ Pork Sandwich	\$13.50
Turkey Sandwich	\$13.80