



We started using Zoom for meetings. Our first was in October. Anyone interested in joining zoom please contact Moses Pounds (mbpsub@outlook.com) to request an invite.

**narfe** Howard County

**Chapter 1734**  
January 2021 Newsletter

**Acting PRESIDENT'S COLUMN**  
**January, 2021**  
**Sam Stern, Acting / Interim President**

Greetings. A belated Happy Hannukah and a very Merry Christmas to all Chapter 1734 NARFE members! This will be my final column as your Acting President. My term is expiring in light of elections scheduled to occur at our next virtual meeting, January 27, 2021. This date is altered due to our wish to accommodate a special guest speaker: Dr. Sudha Haley, the incoming NARFE Maryland Federation President, starting January 1, 2021. She had been the Federation Vice-President. She is replacing Dr. Gary Roundtree who is promoted to Vice-President of NARFE Region 2 (Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Virginia and D.C.). Congratulations to Dr. Roundtree who has served with distinction for many years. We also welcome Dr. Haley. She will speak at our January 27 Zoom meeting at 10:00a.m. After elections, she will discuss her vision for her new administration, goals and expected challenges. She'll respond to our questions. In addition, she will have another guest speaker, a physician. who will speak with us about relaxation techniques. All told, Dr. Haley and the other doctor will be speaking for about 45 minutes following the election.

Patti Gillespie, the Lead for our Officer Nomination Committee, will provide Morse Solomon, Publisher extraordinaire of this fine Newsletter, with the planned slate of Officers for us to vote on. It's not too late to let her (or me) know if you are interested in running for a position, including my Vice-President for Federal Legislation position which I plan to vacate. I do not plan to run for a 6th year as Vice-President for Federal Legislation. After five years in office (and 4 new grandchildren [and a fifth on the way] needing more of my time) I'd very much appreciate someone to replace me. I will be glad to mentor that person if they desire some support and guidance in this vice-presidential position.

My half year as Acting President of Chapter 1734 has been an honor and a challenge - but one I am glad to have accepted. My goal, with the wonderful support of so many other committed members, many of whom are running for office for 2021-2022, was to maintain and advance NARFE Chapter 1734 as a viable component of the NARFE Maryland Federation. In the wake of the immediate past President's inactivity there had been concerns about being able to sustain our Chapter. Fortunately, thanks to the dedicated efforts of individuals such as Joan Cwierniewicz, Patti Gillespie, Mark Wong, Moses Pounds, Sue Neri, Maury Zeitler, Morse Solomon, Melvin Robinson, Chuck Thomas and other hearty souls, we not only survived but got right back on track to flourish as the dynamic NARFE Chapter we've always been. For that I am truly grateful to those tireless men and women who labored to keep us afloat and, now, churning through the NARFE waters of success. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart for your magnificent teamwork and support!

And with that, I bid you, in advance, farewell as Acting President (effective post-election January 27, 2021). I shall remain a member of 1734 though a bit less active due to increased involvement with my grandkids and other family adventures, especially as the Covid-19 pandemic abates with the advent of vaccines. Please be happy and stay well.

**Reminder:** Our meetings are the third Wednesday of the month at 10am. Currently, we meet via Zoom. Our physical meeting place is the at the 50+ Senior Center on Cradlerock Dr. For January 2021 only, we are meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday, Jan 27, to hear Dr. Haley, our new NARFE MD Federation President speak via Zoom.

### **Summary of NARFE Chapter 1734 Zoom Meeting on 12-16-2020**

Our acting President, Sam Stern opened our meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Sam first discussed old business. Sam mentioned that he attended Dr. Gary Roundtree's farewell celebration as the president of the Maryland Federation. He is moving up to the VP of the local NARFE region (DE, NJ, PA, MD, DC). Many nice things were said by Dr. Roundtree's co-workers. He has promised that he'll stay in touch with the Maryland Federation. Dr. Suhda Haley assumes the presidency of the Maryland Federation when Dr. Roundtree departs on Jan 1, 2021. Dr. Haley will talk to us in a future chapter meeting. She wants 45 minutes to talk to us. Dr. Haley is very happy to hear that Chapter 1734 is still active. She said that she is not concerned about the model of leadership, as long as it works for the chapter.

Elizabeth Johnson mentioned that she attended the National Executive board meeting. She was surprised by the labor issue with the regional vice presidents. Vice presidents are contractors and as such there is a labor issue caused by changes at the Labor Department. Maury mentioned that he also attended the National Executive board meeting. Both Elizabeth and Maury commented that an entire hour was devoted to discussion of salaries, and the issue of whether they were employees or contractors. It seemed as if the Vice Presidents were not prepared before the meeting.

Sam then moved on to the elections that we hope to hold in January. We have a potential slate to complete the 2-year term that started in June 2020, and we will conduct the election via acclamation. The slate of proposed officers is included in the newsletter. Members that are interested in helping to lead our NARFE chapter should volunteer to any position they are interested in.

Sam then broached the topic of by laws. He credited Joan for researching by laws and getting by laws from other chapters in Maryland and the national template bylaws. He said that the template is likely good to follow, but not required as we should have flexibility. We will have a bylaws committee in the new year to look into this area.

Elizabeth asked if anyone had a Policies and procedures handbook. No one seems to have one, but there was agreement that it would be good to have such a document. Moses commented that we should try to find a procedures document. Sam said he wanted to distribute a National NARFE Handbook in January, and have a brief ceremony for the new officers. Finally, Sam said that Dr. Haley may be able to help with policies and procedures.

Maury Zeitler spoke next on our speakers in 2021. He commented that BGE has a speakers bureau, and that he's submitted a request for a speaker, and that he should hear from them in the next week. Mark Wong asked if the speaker could address the new solar initiative available to BGE customers. Maury thought so. Ruth Keating White was also mentioned as a possible speaker on energy as she brought it up at our last meeting. She is a Chapter 1734 member. Maury will contact her. He is open for ideas for speakers, so please send your ideas to Maury Zeitler.

Sam next asked for the Treasurer's report from our Treasurer, Joan Cwiertniewicz. The complete treasurers report is below the reporting of the meeting. The other item of news from the Treasurer was that we received a letter from the IRS regarding our non-profit status. Our Chapter is required to file a Form 990 each year to maintain our non-profit status. The Form 990 is filed online. The prior year filing is pending. Joan tried to file for 2020 online and the filing was rejected. Our non-profit status is what is at stake. We only have a problem after 3 years. Joan reported that she was able to reach the IRS and spoke to an employee that helped to resolve the problem immediately. This annual filing is something she noted we need to keep aware of for the chapter. Joan also reported that she used our new debit/credit card for the mask purchase recently. Joan has in her possession the primary credit card for the chapter, but reported that the secondary credit card for the chapter is missing and she is going to check with the bank. No unauthorized charges have been made. Sam next asked for the Membership report from the VP for Membership, Sue Neri. That report is listed below. Sue reminded us all that the membership drive continues through the end of December.

Sam asked the membership about a Public Service Announcement on the Senior Center or 50+ Center media. Something to consider for the future to increase membership.

Sam asked for an update on State Legislature news. Mel Robinson has been attending the meetings, and Moses is his understudy. No real news because of the pandemic. There are no sponsors for bills that change the income tax laws. Franchot will be running for governor and is busy with that. We discussed how seniors often move for cheaper cost of living, but sometimes move back for better quality healthcare and to be near families.

Sam moved on to Federal Legislation. He commented that it is nicely summarized in the Newslines, which he forwards to Morse for dissemination. Federally, there is still some effort to change the formula for Social Security and pensions to a newer formula tied to healthcare, instead of the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Sam has held the position of VP for Federal Legislation for 5 years and is ready to mentor someone to take over the position.

Mark brought up the topic of Schedule F, which determines the number of presidentially appointed employees in various agencies and departments. Trump is still trying to increase that number by at least 200,000. These appointments would come without civil service protections and would be politically appointed. This would politicize civil service. This directive will be passed by Executive Order.

Joan then asked Sam to contact Dr. Haley about speaking at our January meeting, immediately following the election. She felt that it more important to hear about the direction of NARFE than a speaker. Most agreed. Then someone pointed out that the next meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 20 and most of us want to watch the broadcast inauguration, so we decided to have Sam determine if Dr. Haley was available the week before or after Jan 20 and move our meeting.

After the meeting Sam did contact Dr. Haley. She and Sam agreed to hold our next meeting Wed., January 27, 2020 at 10:00am. Dr. Haley will attend for 45 minutes of which some of that time will be devoted to a guest speaker who will speak to us about relaxation techniques. Dr. Haley agreed to answer questions and discuss issues about her vision for her Presidency of the Federation, her goals and foreseeable challenges. Before Dr. Haley speaks, we will have our election and that way Dr. Sudha (Haley) will be able to virtually meet the new slate of officers.

The meeting was adjourned.

**TREASURER’S REPORT  
NARFE CHAPTER 1734  
11/01/2020 - 11/30/2020**

<u>Beginning Balance</u>	\$11,509.52
	<u>Income</u>
Dues from National 11/24	142.62
Total Income	142.62
	<u>Expenses</u>
Total Expenses	0.00
<u>Ending Balance</u>	\$11,652.14
Accounts Payable	
Alzheimer’s This Period: \$ 0	
Alzheimer’s Balance: \$ 0	

## **MEMBERSHIP NEWS:**

(1) New Rates: Effective January 1, 2021 the rates to join NARFE have gone up. The new member rate is \$48 (was \$40) for the first-year membership. Later, when renewing, the rate will be \$52 (old rate was \$45) for 1 yr., \$92 for 2 yrs. (was \$82), and \$126 for 3 yrs., (was \$117). Cost is cheaper to renew for 2 or 3 yrs.

(2) Renewal HQ will send you an invoice when it's time to renew your membership, and the final notice will be attached to your NARFE magazine.

(3) ENARFE: If a person sends in an application to become a member and does not put a chapter on the application, they automatically are enrolled in ENARFE.

FISH of Howard County. Thanks to chapter members who donated this year, it's our tenth year supporting FISH, and hopefully next year we can do so at our Holiday luncheon.

### **Proposed Slate of Officers**

#### **Elected Officers: Candidates**

President – Co-President – Rotating Quarterly President 2021 Q1 Mel Robinson, Q2 Moses Pounds, Q3 Mark Wong, Q4 Mel Robinson, 2022 Q1 Moses Pounds, Q2 TBD

VP-Membership – Sue Neri

VP-Federal Legislature – Sam Stern

VP-State Legislature – Moses Pounds

Secretary – Patti Gillespie

Treasurer – Joan Cwierniewicz

#### **Non Elected Officers**

Past President – Steve Huza

Program Chair – Maury Zeitler

Service Officer – Mark Wong

Sunshine Officer – Burdelle Dowdell

PR Chair – Patti Gillespie

Luncheon Chair – Burdelle Dowdell

Alzheimer Chair - Joan Cwierniewicz

Welcome - Joel Turner

Newsletter Editor – Morse Solomon

Web Master – Morse Solomon

Zoom Coordinator – Moses Pounds

ELECTED	OFFICERS	JUNE 2016	PHONE	TERM
President (Acting)	Sam Stern		410-418-4023	
VP-Membership	Sue Neri		410-381-7140	June 2018
VP-Federal Legislation	Sam Stern—Acting - Interim President		410-418-4023	June 2018
VP-State Legislation	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant
Secretary	Patti Gillespie		410-599-2724	
Treasurer	Joan Cwierniewicz		410-916-3730	June 2018
<b>NON-ELECTED</b>	<b>OFFICERS</b>	<b>OFFICERS</b>		
Past President	Burdelle Dowdell		301-596-2916	N/A
Program Chair	Maury Zeitler		443-632-5210	N/A
				N/A
Service Officer			410-381-5319	N/A
PR Chair	Patti Gillespie		410-599-2724	N/A
Luncheon Chair	Burdelle Dowdell		301-596-2916	N/A
Alzheimer's Chair	Joan Cwierniewicz		410-916-3730	N/A
Welcome	Joel Turner		410-964-2607	N/A
				N/A
Newsletter Editor	Morse Solomon		410-461-6712	N/A
Web Master	Morse Solomon		410-461-6712	N/A

**CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Location</u>
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Meetings and luncheons are suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic. We will inform our chapter members when we can resume meetings and luncheons. Anyone interested in joining the Zoom meetings please contact Moses Pounds (mbpsub@outlook.com)

**IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

Sen. Chris Van Hollen	202-224-4654	e-mail on web at: <a href="http://www.vanhollen.senate.gov">www.vanhollen.senate.gov</a>
Sen. Ben Cardin	202-224-4524	e-mail on web at: <a href="http://www.cardin.senate.gov">www.cardin.senate.gov</a>
Rep. C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger	202-225-3061	e-mail on web at: <a href="http://www.ruppersberger.house.gov">www.ruppersberger.house.gov</a>
Rep. John Sarbanes	410-832-8890	e-mail on web at: <a href="http://www.sarbanes.house.gov">www.sarbanes.house.gov</a>
Rep. Kweisi Mfume	443-364-5413	e-mail on web at: <a href="http://www.mfume.house.gov">www.mfume.house.gov</a>
White House		e-mail on web at: <a href="mailto:president@whitehouse.gov">president@whitehouse.gov</a>
NARFE HOTLINE	703-838-7780	
NARFE Main Line	703-838-7760	