



**NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL  
EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION  
CHAPTER 893  
SPRINGFIELD, VIRGINIA**

**CHAPTER 893 – SERVING OUR MEMBERS**

**VOLUME 47 - NUMBER 5**

**VFC AREA IX**

**SUMMER 2011**

**◆ PRESIDENT'S PAGE ◆**

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This is the Summer edition of the newsletter that combines the May and June issues. The next issue will be out in September. With this issue we say a well-deserved thank you to Vin McDonald who has served the chapter so well as the newsletter editor and publisher for six years. Thanks to Vin, almost 1800 chapter members have received timely information about the issues and activities of the chapter in a publication that we can all be proud of. We are very grateful to Vin for his dedication and commitment to the chapter and its members.

As we say thanks to Vin and wish him well, we also take this opportunity to announce the vacancy for the position of newsletter editor. Please note the recruitment announcement elsewhere in this issue.

As we look forward to summer after a long winter, we want to remind our members of the June luncheon to be held at the Paradiso Italian Restaurant on June 8<sup>th</sup>. This indoor event replaces the traditional picnic that we have had in the past. Please mark June 8<sup>th</sup> on your calendar to enjoy camaraderie and to celebrate the summer season. See page 7 for the details.

I hope that you read with interest the cover article in the April issue of NARFE Magazine. The *Protect America's Heartbeat* Campaign affords all of us an opportunity to share our personal stories and to put a face on federal service. Be sure to visit the campaign web site at [www.ProtectAmericasHeartbeat.org](http://www.ProtectAmericasHeartbeat.org). It has a petition to send a message to Congress to reject cuts to federal workers' and retirees' benefits. If you have not done so yet, I hope that you will join with other NARFE members in this vital campaign to defend the benefits for all federal employees and retirees. If we don't, who will?

At the risk of being repetitive, we continue to recruit for other vacancies for key positions in our chapter. The positions of Vice President, Program Chair, and Public Relations Chair remain open and I invite your consideration. Please contact me at 703-313-9387 or [jkadelg@yahoo.com](mailto:jkadelg@yahoo.com) if you are interested or if you would like additional information. We need members to step up to the chapter's leadership challenge.

**JIM DELGADO**



◆ CHAPTER CALENDAR – 2011 ◆

**Wed, May 4 Chapter Executive Board Meeting**, 1:30 pm, Richard Byrd Library (Meeting Room 2); 7250 Commerce St., Springfield, VA 22150 (**Note change of venue**)

**Fri, May 6, Fairfax County Senior Citizens Council** at 11:30 am; Senior Citizens Recognition Ceremony/Luncheon at the Marriott, Fair Oaks.

**Wed, May 11 Chapter 893 Monthly Meeting**, 1:00 PM (Registration and Social); 1:30 PM (Business Meeting); 2:15 PM (Program)

**Wed, June 8 Chapter 893 Summer Luncheon**; details in the May/June newsletter

**STAY INFORMED**  
**VISIT THE NARFE WEB SITE**  
[www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org)  
&  
**THE VFC WEB SITE**  
[www.vanarfe.org](http://www.vanarfe.org)  
&  
**THE CHAPTER 893 WEB SITE**  
[www.vanarfe.org/893](http://www.vanarfe.org/893)

◆ **FX COUNTY SR CITIZENS COUNCIL** ◆

The annual Senior Recognition Ceremony and Luncheon is scheduled for 11:30 am, Friday, May 6, at the Marriott, Fair Oaks. The cost is \$26 per person and reservations are required; call 703-324-5640 to reserve. Questions? Please call Diane Hill, Chairperson, at (703) 569-5118.

**DIANE HILL**



**MAY 30**



◆ **THE LUNCH BUNCH** ◆

For our May 11 function we have selected Delia's Pizzeria and Grill at 6715 Backlick Road. It offers a large selection of American, Italian and Greek favorites, and it is very convenient to the American Legion. Join us at 11:30 AM, Wednesday, May 11, 2011. Contact us now at (703) 768-4460 or [eleanore.cox.net](http://eleanore.cox.net) to make your reservation.

This is the last regular Lunch Bunch function until we resume chapter meetings in September. But don't forget about the Chapter 893 Summer Luncheon on June 8. See page 7 for details.

**ELEANOR & AL ERICKSON**



◆ **LITTLE THEATRE OF ALEXANDRIA** ◆

Thursday, June 2, 2011, is the date for the next offering from the LTA. **Move Over Mrs. Markham** is a broad farce set in 1972 in a London flat. The flat is supposedly empty and three different sets of lovers plan assignations on the same night. The confusion and cases of mistaken identity last right up to the last act in this broad domestic comedy and results in a traffic jam in Mrs. Markham's bedroom. There are occasional risqué remarks, but the *New York Times'* reviewer labeled the play hectic and hilarious. For tickets, contact Barbara Kohl at [nanab2k@gmail.com](mailto:nanab2k@gmail.com), or (703) 866-9506. As always, tickets are limited and go fast. Be sure to cancel by the day before the performances if your plans change.

**BARBARA KOHL**

◆ PROGRAM NOTES ◆

**MAY.** Have you been asking yourself such questions as these? I will turn 65 in August, should I take Part B of Medicare? Isn't my BC/BS good enough? Does NARFE have any advice to offer about for Long Term Care policies? Yes, NARFE does, and advice on much more, too. These and other pertinent questions will be answered by David B. Snell, Director of the NARFE Retirement Benefits Service Department and former chief of the Retirement Benefits Branch of the Office of Personnel Management who is our speaker at our May 11 Chapter Meeting. David will address several major benefits topics and then take your questions. So frame your questions now and get ready to gain some new insights into matters we thought we knew and understood.

**MARGARET YOWELL**

**MAY CHAPTER MEETING**

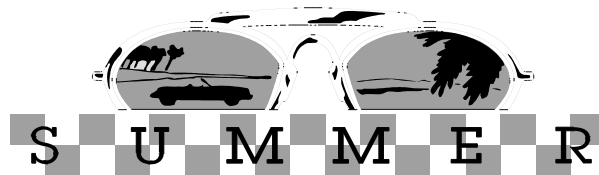
**Date:** Wednesday, May 11, 2011

**Time:** 1:00 pm - Registration and Social  
1:30 pm - Business Meeting  
2:15 pm - Program

**Place:** The American Legion Post 176  
6520 Amherst Avenue  
Springfield, VA 22150

**Program:** "What You Always Wanted to Know about Retirement Benefits But Were Afraid to Ask!"

**Getting There:** The American Legion Post 176 is located on Amherst Avenue just north of Kay Jennings Springfield Toyota at the corner of Amherst Avenue and Springfield Boulevard. Parking is available at the rear of the building.



◆ CHAPTER 893 MEMBERS CONTINUE HELPING IN THE COMMUNITY ◆

**CHAPTER 893 WILL SUPPORT THE STAMP OUT HUNGER FOOD DRIVE.** Following a tradition we began two years ago, Chapter 893 will collect food items for ECHO, an organization that helps those in need with food, and our neighbor on Old Keene Mill Road, at the **May** meeting in support of the Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive, sponsored by the National Association of Letter Carriers and supported by NARFE, held each May. Did you know that the United States has the highest child poverty rate of any wealthy nation? That is not a statistic we should be proud of. And, as more families struggle to make ends meet, Virginia's food banks need help feeding hungry people. ECHO, in February alone, gave out 1,412 bags of food to 272 clients (900 family members). Multiply that times 12 months! How can you help? Just bring some non-perishable items to the May Chapter Meeting. The 2010 Stamp Out Hunger food drive provided ECHO with 16,897 pounds of food and we were part of that effort! Some suggested donation items are: peanut butter, canned meats (turkey, stews, chili, Spam, etc.), canned fruit, crackers, hot and cold cereal, pasta and rice, and dry/powdered milk. **"Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us every day."** Thank you in advance.

**MARGARET YOWELL, CHAPLAIN/PROGRAM CHAIR**

## ◆ MEMBERSHIP ◆

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS (14) APRIL 2011

Robert Betker  
Donald Eckerman  
Scott Erskine  
Casimir Gacek  
John Garrett

Dorothy Jefferson  
Jessie Lane  
Leslie Marler  
Jay Mervis  
Connie Paltz

Jean Riggs  
Sandra Tarman  
Roger Torstenson  
Wanda Violette



**CONDOLENCES:** We extend our condolences to the families of: Norma M. Ayers of New Smyrna Beach, FL; Raymond J. Frith of Springfield, VA; Leila M. Goodman of Alexandria, VA; Olaf Kays of Springfield, VA; and John Machonis of Alexandria, VA.

## ◆ MEMBERSHIP MUSINGS ◆

Thank you for being a member of NARFE. Your support of this organization is invaluable. It's because of you that we have a voice in Congress. We do have a huge concern – our membership is declining. And that may result in diminished Congressional support – which could translate into jeopardizing our earned benefits. We've read the papers and now the handwriting is on the wall – it's not business as usual and those benefits once considered to be "untouchable" are suddenly being reconsidered.

The culture has changed, too, and many people opt out of joining organizations. They rely on the "other person" to carry the load. We know the load is lighter and the journey more enjoyable when we have more people adding their efforts and insights into an organization.

### How can you help?

- Get one person you know to join NARFE. And it doesn't have to be for Chapter 893!
- Make a point of attending a meeting.
- Give us your input on how we can improve our chapter.
- Volunteer to serve on the board or a committee.
- Write your Senators and Congressmen regarding NARFE interests.
- Give us your email address so we can notify you promptly of hot issues that require your support and/or attention.

I am so impressed by those who give their time, talent, and treasure to support Springfield Chapter 893. I look forward to seeing more of you help make our chapter strong and viable. And for our many members who call Greenspring Village their home, please join us for a meeting or two – we'd love to see you!

**DORIS LAMA, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR**

## ◆ NATIONAL LEGISLATION ◆

There's little to report regarding Congressional action affecting federal retirees. For active feds it's another story, with the work force just having seen the threat of a government shutdown, a salary freeze in effect for two years, and folks in the House talking about extending that freeze to as many as five years. Much is being made in the press of the House Republicans' budget for FY 2012 with its major restructuring of Medicare and Medicaid, although we are told that the changes would not affect anyone currently over 55. Again, many in the active work force would be affected. That is the method that Congress used to get the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision into the Social Security legislation. In the course of enacting those unfair offsets, Congress set their effective date well in the future, and those of us who were going to be hit by them barely noticed.

As to the COLA count, a news item during first week of April noted that inflation was running at an annual rate of 5.7 percent. But NARFE National has pointed out that the determining factor for COLA computation is the average of July through September. So while it looks like there will be a COLA in January, guessing the final amount at this point in the calendar year isn't possible, and the potential for Congressional meddling in the result of the computation is also an unknown. Stay tuned.

**CHARLES DELAPLANE**

## ◆ THINKING ABOUT DROPPING YOUR NARFE MEMBERSHIP? ◆

The NARFE Legislative Hotline Number 754 dated April 15, 2011, reports that the House of Representatives adopted Concurrent Resolution 34 regarding the Budget for FY 2012. Authored by Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI), Resolution 34 passed the House on a nearly party line vote of 235-193. It would reduce spending by \$4.4 trillion over 10 years. \$375 billion of these ten-year savings would come from current and retired federal employees. These cuts include:

- Requiring FERS and CSRS covered employees to contribute substantially more to their retirement
- Freezing federal pay for 5 years
- Reducing federal workforce by 10 percent over 3 years

**THINK AGAIN!**

## ◆ NEWSLETTER EDITOR NEEDED!!! ◆

This issue is Vin McDonald's final newsletter for Chapter 893. We are grateful for his service over the past six years. Now we now must again appeal for help in continuing this vital means of communicating with our membership. Is there anyone out there perhaps a retired info officer-type (but that's not a requirement) who could perform this function for Chapter 893. You need not be a graphic design expert to do this job, basic desk top skills would be adequate. The next newsletter must be produced in late August for the September start-up of regular Chapter meetings. If you can help, **PLEASE** call President Jim Delgado (703-313-9387). You may also learn about the details of being editor by contacting Vin himself (703-643-2658 or [vpmjam@aol.com](mailto:vpmjam@aol.com)). Many thanks for your consideration.

**CHARLES DELEPLANE**



**MAY 8**



**JUNE 19**

◆ **NARFE Alzheimer's Fund** ◆

In collaboration with the Alzheimer's Association, *NARFE members have donated more than \$9 million to the NARFE Alzheimer's Fund.* 100 percent of NARFE donations to the Fund are allocated to research. NARFE is a member of the Alzheimer's Association's Zenith Society, a group of about 50 donors representing the highest level of giving. NARFE is one of only four organizations belonging to the Zenith Society; and, of the four organizations, NARFE is the "number one" contributor. Many NARFE members not only contribute their dollars to the NARFE Alzheimer's Fund but also plan and participate in fundraisers, and volunteer at local day-care centers and other respite-care facilities. At the 2010 National Convention, delegates voted to extend NARFE's current goal to \$10 million in 2012.

Now it's our turn. It's time for Chapter 893 to reassert its commitment to Alzheimer's Research. The committee is active again and ready to resume raising funds for this worthy cause. But we need your help and support. Give now! Use the coupon below to do your share! Make checks payable to NARFE/Alzheimer's Research. Put "Chapter 893" on the check on the "for" or "memo" line.

**SUE McPHERSON**

◆ **Alzheimer's Research Fund** ◆

Complete this form and mail it with your check to **Sue McPherson, 7101 Kerr Drive, Springfield, VA 22150.** Be sure to annotate the "for" or "memo" line with "Chapter 893."

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Check No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**NARFE CHAPTER 893 SUMMER LUNCHEON**

**DATE: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2011**

**TIME: NOON TO 2:00 PM**

**WHERE: PARADISO'S  
ITALIAN RESTAURANT  
6124 FRANCONIA DRIVE  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22310**



**MENU: THIS IS A BUFFET LUNCHEON WITH AN EXTENSIVE ARRAY OF ITALIAN FARE INCLUDING SALADS, SOUPS, CHEESES, FISH, PASTA, CHICKEN, PIZZA, BREAD, DESSERTS, AND BEVERAGES. THE PRICE PER PERSON IS \$20.00 INCLUDING TAX, GRATUITY, DOOR PRIZES, AND DONATION TO ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH.**

**RESERVATIONS: COMPLETE AND MAIL THE RESERVATION FORM BELOW WITH YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO NARFE CHAPTER 893. RESERVATIONS ACCEPTED UNTIL JUNE 1, 2011. NO REFUNDS AFTER JUNE 4.**

**REMARKS: WE ARE TRYING A NEW APPROACH THIS YEAR - AN INDOOR PICNIC! YES, AN INDOOR ITALIAN PICNIC AT THAT! AFTER ALL, YOU KNOW HOW HOT IT GETS IN ITALY IN JUNE! SO GRAB YOUR SHADES AND JOIN US FOR OUR SUMMER LUNCHEON. NO NEED TO JOURNEY TO ITALY FOR AN ITALIAN PICNIC!**

**GENERAL INFORMATION – CONTACT DORIS LAMA AT (703) 644-0139 OR DMLAMA@YAHOO.COM.**

**RESERVATIONS – CONTACT BEVERLY CLEMSEN AT 703-924-0152 OR JIRAFF2@COX.NET.**

----- CLIP HERE -----

**MAIL TO BEVERLY CLEMSEN AT 6210 OLD VALLEY COURT, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22310-1540**

**NAME: \_\_\_\_\_**

**NAME: \_\_\_\_\_**

**AMT OF CHECK: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ TEL NUMBER: (703) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_**

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**Chapter 893 Meeting, May 11, 2011  
The American Legion Post 176, Springfield, VA**

**◆ MAY CHAPTER MEETING ◆**

**"What You Always Wanted to Know about Retirement  
Benefits But Were Afraid to Ask!"**

**David B. Snell, Director, NARFE Retirement Benefits  
Service and former Chief of Retirement Benefits at OPM,  
addresses major benefits topics and fields your benefits-  
related questions.**

**Wednesday, May 11, 2011  
(See page 3 for details)**

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**◆ ANNUAL SUMMER LUNCHEON ◆**

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2011  
(See page 7 for details and registration)**

