

Narfe Member

You and a guest are invited to our annual

Holiday Party

Wednesday, December 1, 2010

12 o'clock Noon until 3:00 pm

Spring House Tavern

Spring House, Pa.

Only \$20.00/person

MENU

Choice of one:

***Stuffed Breast of Chicken
Lump Crab Cake
Petite Filet Mignon, or
Broiled Salmon***

Served with

*Garden Salad
Red Bliss Potatoes
Vegetable du Jour
Rolls and Butter
Coffee, Tea, or Iced
Tea;*

*and,
Ice Cream with
Chocolate Sauce!!*

Music and Entertainment

Debbie Knight

RSVP

By November 26, 2010:
Send a check payable to
NARFE 372 for \$20.00 for
each person attending.

**Si Nagel
262 Little Brook Lane
Pottstown, PA 19465**



This iconic 1949 Saturday Evening Post cover captures a moment in time just up the road from our usual monthly meeting location. This image shows the earlier site of the Center Square Fire Department in what is now called Blue Bell, Pa. The firehouse was at the intersection of DeKalb and Skippack Pikes. Reed’s Country Store building is still there- now a furniture and lighting store. The fire alarm gong has been reinstalled outside of the new main station house and is just a short distance away on Skippack Pike, to the left of this illustration’s setting.

While hard to see in this image, there is a young boy with his mother in the store window to the right of the Eggs sign. The boy’s father, in jacket and striped pajamas, is seen dashing to the fire truck. The boy is no longer on display in that store’s front window. If you want to see him now, you will have to come to one of our meetings and take a peek at your current chapter Secretary, Al Henryson!



⇐ Congresswoman Allyson Schwartz was our featured speaker in September. After her remarks, Allyson chatted informally with a number of our chapter members. According to NARFE magazine, Allyson has voted 100% in favor of NARFE issues. She has supported us.

Election Day in November 2.

Congressman Jim Gerlach, R, PA6, addressed Chapter 372 on March 6, 2010. He came to our meeting to get an understanding of our issues and concerns. Jim has received funding from NARFE PAC this year .



Zero COLA for 2011: CONGRESSIONAL ALERT!

NARFE urges you to contact your members of Congress for support to include retired public service employees in any "Lame Duck" legislation offering a \$250 payment to older Americans. We each got the \$250 before with NARFE's help, now we need yours. Please call today!

Subject: NARFE Dues Increase

GEMS Message, NARFE Dues Increase, September 7, 2010

From: National President

To: NEB, Federation Presidents, Chapter Presidents, NARFE Members

At our 2010 National Convention, NARFE delegates approved a dues increase. Here is the new dues structure for NATIONAL DUES:

- One year National Dues - \$40.00
- Two years National Dues - \$72.00
- Three years National Dues - \$102.00

The above is for National Dues only. Chapters will continue to establish their dues and National will continue to collect those dues and remit them to the chapters. **(NOTE: Chapter Dues for Norristown, Chapter 372 are still only \$8.00!)**

Those members who are on dues withholding will receive a 15% reduction on National Dues. Their annual dues will be \$34.00 plus chapter dues of record. Again, Chapters will continue to establish their dues and National will collect them and remit them to the chapters.

Finally, the National Executive Board (NEB) established a new First Year Membership Fee of \$45.00. Under our bylaws, "One-third (1/3) of the Membership Fee ... shall be returned to the Chapters in lieu of the first year's Chapter dues."

Implementation target date for these increases is 1 January, 2011.

Margaret Baptiste



Here is a TIP: Beat the dues increase! Go on-line now and sign up for a three year extension to your national membership for \$74. That is 3 years for just two dollars more than the price of two years! The savings will more than cover the Chapter dues.

Longer term savings: Dues Withholding =15%!

June Outing

In June, we managed to turn a very hot day into an afternoon of quiet enjoyment of the ever changing venues found on the grounds of Chanticleer. We blended the aroma of flowers and fresh air with the pleasant company of fellow NARFE members.

This reasonably priced trip lasted about 90 minutes and included a tour of the house and the gardens. The air-conditioning in the house was a special and unexpected treat. After the tour, we enjoyed a great lunch at Minella's Diner in Wayne.

The raspberry iced tea was a great thirst quencher on that very hot day. Our thanks to Peg Bergman for arranging this tour for us.



If you don't attend the monthly meetings, you miss some personal and insightful moments. One such moment was the heartfelt discussions we had when State Representative Kate Harper joined us for a Saturday Brunch and addressed our specific concerns.

Allyson Schwartz, D, PA-13 chatting with Chapter members in an informal environment. What questions would you have for a member of Congress?



**Tuesday, November 2 is Election Day.
Chapter elections will be held the next day. Vote both days!**

**Come to our Health Information Fair
1 PM Wednesday, November 3, 2010.**

IN MEMORIAM
Dennis Charles Fitzgerald

A great friend and an active member of NARFE, Dennis Fitzgerald died on April 6, 2010 at Phoenixville Hospital, in Phoenixville, PA of complications following surgery. He was just 63 years old.

Dennis was born in Baltimore, MD and attended school in Charlotte, NC and Philadelphia, graduating from Father Judge High School. He received his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from La-Salle College, Philadelphia.

Dennis served in the U.S. Navy aboard the USS Forrestal, USS Enterprise and USS Lexington during the Vietnam War. In 1970, he was employed as a Federal Bank Examiner by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation in Philadelphia and rose to the level of a Senior Bank Examiner in his 27 year career. He retired in 1997.

Interment, with a US Navy Honor Guard, was at St. Patrick's Cemetery in Norristown, PA. Dennis is survived by his wife of 28 years, Eileen Mobley Fitzgerald, the Membership Chair for the Norristown NARFE Chapter.

Dennis served NARFE in a number of capacities, most recently as Chapter 372's Legislative Chair. Dennis was well noted for ending his monthly reports with the recommendation to "Vote the bums out!" and/or to "Vote early and often."

Our deepest sympathies to Eileen Fitzgerald, our friend and valued member of the Chapter leadership. In fond memory of Dennis, we remind you about the upcoming elections on Tuesday, November 2, 2010. You know the drill!

Can't attend the meetings and still want to actively support NARFE? Send a donation to the NARFE-PAC. Only NARFE members may contribute. Send \$20 or more you will get a NARFE-PAC pin. The PAC is working for all of us. Send what you can to this address:

Attn: Budget & Finance
NARFE
606 N. Washington St.
Alexandria, VA 22314-1914

Over 3,000 Pennsylvania NARFE Members contributed a total of \$65,674.25 to the NARFE-PAC in 2009-2010. Some of that money went to the campaigns for local members of Congress:

Allyson Schwartz- \$3,000
Jim Gerlach- \$2,000
Joe Sestak- \$5,000



Chapter 372
Norristown, PA
www.narfe372.org

As of February 2, 2010

<p>President George Shal 1410 Cortez Road. Blue Bell, PA 19422 610-272-0518 shal@comcast.net</p>	<p>1st Vice President Ted Mason 401 Rittenhouse Blvd Norristown, PA 19403 610-539-5650 tdgmason@verizon.net</p>	<p>2nd Vice President Margaret A. Bergman 203 Canterbury Court Blue Bell, PA 19422 610-277-4791 Peggyb5@aol.com</p>
<p>Secretary Al Henryson Plymouth Hill #813-S 666 W. Germantown Pk Plymouth Mtg, PA 19462 215-931-5548 alhenryson@verizon.net</p>	<p>Treasurer Simon Nagel 262 Little Brook Lane Pottstown, PA 19465 610-469-0214</p>	<p>Legislative Chair Ed Levandoski 101 Hilltop Rd Plymouth Mtg, PA 19462</p>
<p>Membership Chair Eileen Fitzgerald 1014 Longspur Road Audubon, PA 19402 610-666-5134 Eileenf240@aol.com</p>	<p>Web Master Theodore Mason 401 Rittenhouse Blvd Norristown, PA 19403 610-896-3717 tdmason@verizon.net</p>	<p>Service Officer Joe Patti 3241 Sunset Ave. Norristown, PA 19403 610-584-4090 jsconcept@aol.com</p>
<p>Sunshine Gwen Wilson 22131 Shannondell Dr Norristown, PA 19403 215-474-7785 GWNWLSN@aol.com</p>	<p>Public Relations Eileen Fitzgerald 1014 Longspur Road Audubon, PA 19402 610-666-5134 Eileenf240@aol.com</p>	<p>Newsletter Editor* Joe Patti 3241 Sunset Ave. Norristown, PA 19403 610-584-4090 jsconcept@aol.com</p>

Elections for new officers are held at the regularly scheduled November meeting. Also members are encouraged to volunteer for various committees during the year or otherwise assist with Chapter activities. We do need your help and appreciate your support. Help us help you!

**Come to our Health Information Fair
1 PM Wednesday, November 3, 2010.**

Chapter Website: www.NARFE372.org



Veterans

A recent change to U.S. law now allows military veterans to continue rendering the military salute when not in uniform.

National Anthem Salute: Veterans not in military uniform may render a military-style hand salute at the playing of the national anthem. The provision does not address whether head cover should be removed prior to rendering a salute. The accepted practice is to follow the same protocol as you would if your were in uniform: uncovered indoors, covered outdoors.

Flag Passing in Review: Military-style hand salutes for veterans out of uniform are authorized when the flag carried by an honor guard passes in review.

Pledge of Allegiance: Although the new provisions to the law do not specifically address the military salute during the recitation of the pledge, many veterans are rendering the military-style hand salute when the pledge is given.

Not Mandatory: If you are a military veteran no longer wearing a uniform, you may choose to salute the flag as other civilians do by removing your hat and holding your hand over your heart or you may render a military-style hand salute. The new provisions provide you the liberty to render respect to the flag as your conscience dictates.



Charley Saylor, our Region II Vice President, was elected Treasurer of NARFE at the National Convention in Grand Rapids in September. Ronald Bowers, Timonium, MD, was elected the new DVP II at the same Convention.

Charley is pictured at our 2008 Holiday Party. Interestingly, Maria Ritzman attended our Holiday Party in 2009. She was elected President of the Pennsylvania Federation at the state convention in May. What great things will happen when you attend our Holiday Party this year? Buy a lottery ticket and come to the party on December 1st!



NARFE

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association
Protecting the Future for Retired and Current Federal Employees

Meeting Agenda

1 PM

November 3, 2010

Chapter 372

Norristown, PA

Old Country
NORTHTOWNE PLAZA
2800 DEKALB PIKE
-Buffet- NORRISTOWN, PA

1. Call to Order: George Shal
2. Moment of Silence
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Introduction of Members and Guests
5. Featured Activity: **Health Information Fair**
6. Reading of Minutes: Al Henryson
7. Officer And Committee Reports
 - Treasurer: Si Nagel
 - Legislation: Ed Levandoski
 - Membership/Public Relations: Eileen Fitzgerald
 - Service/Newsletter: Joe Patti
 - Sunshine: Gwen Wilson
8. Old Business
 - Chapter support for Alzheimer's Research
9. New Business
 - **Election of Chapter Officers**
 - Reimbursements
 - Other New Business
10. Adjourn

Holiday Party: Noon, Wednesday, December 1, 2010
Spring House Tavern, Spring House, PA

George Shal
President, NARFE Chapter 372
1410 Cortez Road
Blue Bell, PA 19422

Your Congressional District: