



NARFE NEWSLETTER

GREATER BOWIE-CROFTON AREA CHAPTER 1747

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

Volume 27, No. 4

December 2006

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS are held at Bowie City Hall (2614 Kenhill Drive, Bowie) on the third Thursday of the month at 10:00 A.M. in Conference Room 204. There is never a charge to attend and all meetings are open to the public.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS are held the first Thursday of the month at 9:00 A.M. in Conference Room 125, Bowie Senior Center. All chapter members are welcome.

NOTE: Chapter meetings are cancelled when Prince George's County schools are closed due to inclement weather. Otherwise, meetings are held as scheduled.

E-MAIL SCAM ALERT

The Social Security Administration has asked NARFE to warn all members of a current e-mail scam. The scammer's e-mail message has the subject "Cost-of-Living for 2007 Update" and claims to be from the Social Security Administration. The message provides information about the 3.3 percent benefit increase for 2007 and contains the following statement: "NOTE: We now need to update your personal information. If this is not completed by November 11, 2006, we will be forced to suspend your account indefinitely." The scam can be updated indefinitely by simply changing the November 11 response date.

When the Social Security number is typed in, the recipient is directed to a website designed to look like Social Security's internet web page. Once at the phony website, the individual is asked to register for a password and to confirm identity by providing personal information, including the individual's Social Security number, bank account information, and credit card information.

Patrick O'Carroll, Jr., Inspector General of Social Security, says that a person should never provide a Social Security number or other personal information over the internet. To report this message or other suspicious activity to Social Security's Office of the Inspector General, call the OIG Hotline at 1-800-269-0271 (TTY 1-866-501-2101) or report the contact online at www.socialsecurity.gov/oig.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

- ❖ *General Meeting.* Thursday, January 18, 10:00 A.M. Program: 2007 Tax Tips. Speaker: Lois Fishman.
- ❖ *General Meeting.* Thursday, February 15; 10:00 A.M. Program: Low Maintenance Gardening. Speaker: John Peter Thompson of Behnke Nurseries.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ed Bice

A special thank you to member Steve Malley for his efforts in inviting Ed Reilly to be a speaker at our outstanding November meeting. Ed (District 7 Representative to the Anne Arundel County Council) and Doug Peters (District 4 Representative to the Prince George's County Council) certainly presented issues—including wastewater management, the future of the Bowie racetrack, transportation, and housing—that are important in the future for Prince George's and Anne Arundel Counties.

It was a pleasure to see our meeting room full with a number of guests and members attending for the first time. I would like to encourage all interested individuals to come to future meetings as this chapter has outstanding programs and events.

Our chapter will elect new officers in May 2007. I anticipate that some of our current officers will be retiring from their positions. Therefore, new volunteers will be required. I ask our members to consider becoming a part of the team. Please call me. We can talk about your interest in the chapter's future!

Happy Holidays!

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Paul Schuette

A lame-duck Congress is waddling through the final days of its 2006 session, but most eyes are focused on January when Democrats take control of both the House and Senate for the first time in a dozen years.

What does the changeover mean for NARFE? That's an unknown, of course, but our legislative priorities have not fared well under Republican majorities so we can at least nourish some hope for what the future may bring.

There will be many new faces in the House come January and a modest transformation in the Senate lineup as well, but it is the turnover in committee chairmanships that is likely to be of greater significance.

In the House, Rep. Charles B. Rangel, a New York Democrat, is expected to take the gavel of the Ways and Means Committee, which has jurisdiction over the legislation of most interest to NARFE. He will replace Rep. Bill Thomas, a California Republican who is retiring. Thomas never saw fit to give a green light to NARFE-backed bills that would repeal or modify the Social Security Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) or the premium conversion legislation that would allow federal retirees to pay their health insurance premiums in pre-tax dollars.

On the Senate side, Montana Democrat Max Baucus is in line to take over the chairmanship of the Finance Committee from Iowa Republican Charles Grassley but there is less contrast between these two than the switch from Thomas to Rangel on Ways and Means.

Also in the House, Maryland Rep. Steny Hoyer, whose district includes Bowie, will move into the post of majority leader when the new Congress convenes in January. He was elected to the No. 2 House leadership post by his Democratic colleagues in November.

STATE LEGISLATION

Ed Bice

In preparation for the 2007 Maryland General Assembly, each chapter in the Federation was asked to send a form letter to each of the winning candidates in the September primary election asking them to indicate their support for NARFE priority issues. The issues included (1) Tax Credit for the purchase of long-term-care health insurance, (2) Equalization of the tax exemption for persons who are over 65 or blind, and (3) Reduction of property taxes for persons over 65.

I sent out 22 letters to candidates in Districts 23, 24, 25, 32 and 33. To date, I have received only six responses; all of these were favorable. All six respondents were elected in November. Those answering were:

District 23	James Hubbard (D)
	Douglas Peters (D)
	Marvin Holmes (D)
District 32	James DeGrange (D)
District 33	Janet Greenip (R)
	James King (R)



Scenes from October. Clockwise from top: Paul Schuette is stoic; Dale Grant seems happy to get his shot; The Lion's Club Mobile Health Unit is set up for vision and hearing screening; Jennifer Malavé, Blue Cross / Blue Shield representative, answers questions.

LOOKING BACK: OCTOBER

Barbara Wheatley

Ninety members signed in at our October meeting with seventy-three receiving flu shots. As usual, our Federal Health Plan representatives did an outstanding job giving us information on changes in our plans for the coming year. The Lion's Club Medical

Mobile was here for the first time and screened twenty people for vision, thirty-five for hearing and twelve for glaucoma—sixty-seven people in all. We voted to ask them back next year. A sincere thank you to all members who participated.

MEMBERSHIP

Dorothy Campbell

Do You Hate Holiday Shopping?

Give the Gift of NARFE!

As we near the major gift-giving time of the year, we should all consider giving the gift of a NARFE membership to our *eligible* family members, friends, neighbors, and former coworkers as well as current ones. Why? It's a gift that's convenient for the giver and will be welcomed by the recipient.

Who's eligible? Federal and District of Columbia government retirees, and current federal and D.C. employees. Also spouses and former spouses of federal and D.C. retirees and current federal employees.

Why give a gift membership? To give all the benefits that you, as current NARFE members enjoy: effective legislative representation, local chapter activities/programs, the NARFE national magazine and a chapter newsletter, and discounted services (insurance, car rentals, travel services and more).

For more information and forms, contact me at 301-464-6372 or Dcbowie@aol.com. Make your holiday shopping easier, make the recipients of your gifts happy, and build NARFE -- all at the same time!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

It's especially exciting to welcome the following nineteen new members this month. We look forward to seeing you at chapter meetings and other activities.

Carol L. Boan	Patricia A. McCawley
Edward Botts	Leonard E. Medford
Joseph E. Bowe	Patricia A. Randle
Lola B. Branch	Darrell W. Rardon
Katherine Brothers	Kamilah F. Rasheed
Ludie A. Burns	Philip Schmidt
Jessica S. Forman	Joseph M. Sheehan
Cheryl A. Gross	James Swartz
Etta S. Haggerty	Dorothy H. Talmud
Janet M. Hart	

CONDOLENCES

Condolences to the family and friends of:

Sidney D. Talmud

50/50 RAFFLE

October's 50/50 Raffle was won by Dorothy Campbell, who donated her \$31.00 prize back to the chapter to send to the National Alzheimer's Disease Foundation, since November is National Alzheimer's Disease Month. Alzheimer's disease and dementia develop almost every seven seconds and cost about \$240 million worldwide.

Mary Catloth announced that from now on you can win the Raffle without being present—just print your name and phone number on the ticket back.

DAYS TO REMEMBER

December 7	National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
December 14	Holiday Lunch
December 15	Hanukkah (begins at sundown)
December 22	First Day of Winter
December 25	Christmas

CHAPTER 1747 TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on: October 1, 2006	\$5018.81
Income:	431.20
Expenses:	1072.34
Reserves:	1164.82
Balance on: October 30, 2006	\$3212.83

IMPORTANT FEDERAL CONTACTS

All are addressed as "The Honorable"

President George W. Bush president@whitehouse.gov	202-456-1111	
Senator Barbara A. Mikulski www.mikulski@senate.gov	202-224-4654	fax: 202-224-8858
Senator Paul S. Sarbanes www.sarbanes@senate.gov	202-224-4524	fax: 202-224-1651
Representative Benjamin Cardin District 3 www.cardin.house.gov	202-225-4016	fax: 202-225-9219
Representative Steny Hoyer District 5 www.hoyer.house.gov	202-225-4131	fax: 202-225-4300
Representative Albert Wynn District 4 www.wynn.house.gov	202-225-8699	fax: 202-225-8714

Greater Bowie-Crofton Area NARFE News

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Dues payments, gifts, and contributions to NARFE are not deductible as Charitable Contributions for income tax purposes.

CHAPTER BOARD

Elected Officers

President	Ed Bice	301-464-3748	DEBice@netzero.net
1st Vice President	Dorothy Campbell	301-464-6372	Dcbowie@aol.com
2nd Vice President	Barbara Wheatley	301-352-6241	wheatley0@aol.com
Secretary	Roger Leonard	301-262-3405	dinopop@aol.com
Treasurer	Paul Schuette	301-262-0975	pschuette@verizon.net
Assistant Treasurer	Mayer Weinblatt	301-262-3264	

Committee Chairs

Federal Legislation	Paul Schuette	301-262-0975	pschuette@verizon.net
Membership	Dorothy Campbell	301-464-6372	Dcbowie@aol.com
Newsletter	Frances Steburg	301-352-0297	feks@msn.com
	Jessica Forman	301-262-3222	jeci4man@verizon.net
Programs	Barbara Wheatley	301-352-6241	wheatley0@aol.com
Public Relations	Dorothy Campbell	301-464-6372	Dcbowie@aol.com
Service Officers	Bob Cullen	301-262-4783	ba3537@aol.com
	Paul Schuette	301-262-0975	pschuette@verizon.net
	Lee Tuveson	301-262-3164	
State Legislation	Ed Bice	301-464-3748	DEBice@netzero.net

Activity Coordinators

Alzheimer's Fund	Maria Francer	240-245-4328	
Community Service	VACANT		
Meeting Sign-In/Greeter	Mary Catloth	301-390-2206	mcatloth@aol.com
NARFE-Net Coordinator	VACANT		
NARFE-PAC	Ed Bice	301-464-3748	DEBice@netzero.net
Photographer	Frank Lee	410-672-5065	fllee0716@verizon.net
Refreshments	Jack Calloway	301-262-3457	
	Dave Galliant	301-262-7261	
	Tom Page	301-262-3418	

Holiday Luncheon

December 14, 2006

Rip's Restaurant