



NARFE NEWSLETTER

GREATER BOWIE-CROFTON AREA CHAPTER 1747

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

Volume 27, No. 5

January 2007

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS are held at Bowie City Hall (2614 Kenhill Drive, Bowie) on the third Thursday of the month at 10:00 AM 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 AM 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.

MILEAGE RATES FOR 2007

NARFE has announced the new I.R.S. standard mileage rates for 2007:

48.5 cents per mile for business miles driven,
20 cents per mile for medical or moving purposes,
and

14 cents per mile driven in service to a charitable organization.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

❖ *General Meeting.* Thursday, January 18, 10:00 AM Program: 2007 Tax Tips. Speaker: Lois Fishman.

❖ *General Meeting.* Thursday, February 15; 10:00 AM Program: Low Maintenance Gardening. Speaker: John Peter Thompson of Behnke Nurseries.

❖ *General Meeting.* Thursday, March 15, 10:00 AM Program: Assisted Living Options.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ed Bice

At our Holiday Luncheon at Rip's on December 14th, I had the great pleasure to present our NARFE Honorary Membership to Arthur E. "Ed" Montague on behalf of our chapter. He joins others in the chapter who are honorary members, including one of our oldest members, Mayer Weinblatt, who was celebrating his recent ninetieth birthday.



Chapter President Ed Bice with Ed Montague (left) and Mayer Weinblatt (right) at chapter 1747's Holiday Luncheon.

Along with Ed Montague, the chapter has a second new Honorary Member—Rose Salvano. Honorary Members are at least 85 years old and have supported NARFE for 20 years.

We will make the coming year, 2007, a banner year for the chapter! We have strong programs planned. Members, come out and support your chapter. We hope to participate in community events and to gain greater name recognition for NARFE. Plans include a new approach to, and greater action for, member retention.

Remember, chapter elections will take place in May—please talk to our officers about your interest in the chapter's future and how you could help reach our goal.

On behalf of the officers of Chapter 1747, I hope you had a happy holiday season. We wish a Happy New Year to all.

STATE LEGISLATION

The Federation's State Legislative committee has proposed three legislative initiatives for the 2007 General Assembly session. They are:

1. An annual \$500 state income tax credit for long-term care premiums paid by Maryland residents aged 60 or older.
2. A cap on the state property taxes for seniors who are at least age 70 and have been Maryland residents for a minimum of 10 years. A tax credit is included for those citizens whose annual income is \$80,000 or less and whose assets do not exceed \$150,000 excluding the value of their residences.
3. A \$1,400 increase on the special income tax exemption for all Marylanders who are 65 or older (including taxpayers and spouses). This increase would equalize the current \$1000 over-65 exemption and the special \$2400 exemption now accorded to any taxpayer who claims a 65-year-old as a non-spousal dependent. Non-spousal dependents might be a brother, sister, uncle, or other relative.

Members of the Federation Committee and chapter presidents are communicating with members of the legislature by letters and personal visits, seeking sponsors' support for all three initiatives before the start of the session in early January 2007.

MEMBERSHIP

Dorothy Campbell

New Year's Resolutions for Chapter 1747 Members

First, my best wishes for a happy and healthy new year to all of you and your families.

Next, I hope that with all your other New Year's resolutions, you have made the following special ones that will be good for you, for our NARFE chapter, and for our entire organization—the only one that exclusively devotes its attention to the special interests and concerns of federal retirees.

- ❖ I will become a more active Chapter 1747 member.
- ❖ I will regularly attend Chapter membership meetings and other Chapter activities.
- ❖ I will volunteer to work with our Chapter committees or for special events, or even run for office.

- ❖ I will become a "NARFE recruiter," actively helping to keep our Chapter growing.
- ❖ I will read my NARFE national/chapter publications faithfully.
- ❖ I will not let my dues lapse; to do this, I will consider signing up for dues withholding (OPM will deduct approximately \$2.50 monthly for both national and chapter dues).

Unlike some of the resolutions some of us make—and soon after break—these are all easy to keep. And your Chapter officers are all here to help you keep them.

Special Congratulations!

In response to a previous newsletter article, two members contacted me to tell me they believed they were eligible for NARFE Honorary Membership. After checking with national headquarters, I was pleased to inform them that they did reach that level in the organization. Congratulations to **Rose Salvano**, surviving spouse of Charter Member Adolph P. Salvano, and **Arthur E. "Ed" Montague**—our two newest NARFE Honorary Members! Both received special membership cards and certificates, and are now exempt from paying any NARFE dues. See you soon.

PROGRAMS

Barbara Wheatley



Images from our November meeting. Ed Reilly, (left) of District 7 of the Anne Arundel County Council and Doug Peters (right) of District 4 of the Prince George's County Council. Below, the Councilmen together. Peters is on the left and Reilly on the right.

Our January meeting will feature Ms. Lois Fishman of Fishman Financial Services in Rockville. Back by popular demand, she will discuss with us many tax changes, just as she did last year. She will have the answers to our questions concerning changes that have a direct bearing on our 2006 Income Tax Return. Being in the tax business Ms. Fishman is much more aware of recent changes than we are and is especially familiar with the ones that will affect us the most.

Don't forget to ask a friend or two if they are interested in this program and to bring them along. Ms. Fishman has lots of information for us.

UNITED SENIORS OF MARYLAND

The United Seniors of Maryland (USM) State Legislative Rally will be held at St. John's College in Annapolis on Tuesday, January 23, 2007 from 9:00 AM until 2:30 PM. The cost is \$11.00 per person. Please call Ed Bice (301-464-3748) for the agenda, carpooling, and other information.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Member Tom Page Medals at the Maryland Senior Olympics

Tom Page, participating in the 75–80 age group at the Maryland Senior Olympics (MSO) September 21st and 22nd, 2006, won an age-group gold award in the 1-mile precision walk, silver medals in softball, football and javelin throw and a bronze medal in the 1-mile recreation walk. The competition was held at Towson State University.

Tom has participated in the MSO for 22 years, and has competed in the National Senior Olympics and World Games. He is a MSO commissioner and has been the torchbearer for the Opening and Closing Ceremonies.

Contact Tom at 301-262-3418 if you are interested in joining the MSO in any capacity.

Do you have a special hobby or activity which might interest other members? Have you been recognized by the community or any other organization? Let us know so we can publicize your achievement! Contact any officer with details or e-mail to Jessica Forman at jeci4man@verizon.net

SWIMMING PROGRAM

Swim in the indoor heated pool at C. Elizabeth Rieg Regional School, 15542 Peach Walker Drive, Bowie, Maryland on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 5:30 to 7:30 PM. The program is free to all Prince George's County residents age 55 and over.

The program is cancelled when schools are closed and in the event of inclement weather.

For more information, contact Greg Gordon, regional Manager, MNCPPC, at 301-772-3151 or by TTY at 301-218-6768.

CHAPTER 1747 TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on: November 1, 2006	\$4,377.67
Income:	1,002.44
Expenses:	772.82
Reserves:	1335.43
Balance on: November 31, 2006	\$3,721.86

DAYS TO REMEMBER

January 1	New Year's Day
January 15	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

IMPORTANT FEDERAL CONTACTS		
<i>All are addressed as "The Honorable"</i>		
President George W. Bush <i>president@whitehouse.gov</i>	202-456-1111	
Senator Barbara A. Mikulski <i>www.mikulski@senate.gov</i>	202-224-4654	fax: 202-224-8858
Senator Paul S. Sarbanes <i>www.sarbanes@senate.gov</i>	202-224-4524	fax: 202-224-1651
Representative Benjamin Cardin District 3 <i>www.cardin.house.gov</i>	202-225-4016	fax: 202-225-9219
Representative Steny Hoyer District 5 <i>www.hoyer.house.gov</i>	202-225-4131	fax: 202-225-4300
Representative Albert Wynn District 4 <i>www.wynn.house.gov</i>	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	

Next Meeting

January 18, 2007

Tax Tips