



NARFE NEWSLETTER

GREATER BOWIE-CROFTON AREA

CHAPTER 1747

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

Volume 27, No. 7

March 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.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

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

❖ *General Meeting.* Thursday, April 19, 10:00 AM
Program: John Peter Thompson of Behnke Nurseries.

❖ *General Meeting.* Thursday, May 17, 10:00 AM
Program: Elaine Ezell of the AAA Antique Mall.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ed Bice

I was one of four interested NARFE members who met on February 12th with newly elected Congressman John Sarbanes of the Third Congressional District and his staff at his Towson office. District Three includes the Crofton area. Federation President Dick Strombotne headed our delegation as an overview of the Federation's organization and aims were presented. The main part of the forty-five minute meeting was a briefing and discussion of premium conversion and the government pension offset and the windfall provisions of Social Security.

Want to feel part of the chapter? Want something new and different to do? Try joining something you haven't done before! Work on a committee, attend state legislature hearings, make telephone calls, or help bring non-drivers to meetings. Contact one of the officers listed on page 4.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Paul Schuette

Bills again have been introduced in Congress to repeal the Social Security Act's Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP).

NARFE has long sought to get rid of these two provisions which arbitrarily reduce social security benefits of hundreds of thousands of federal, state and local government retirees and survivors.

The WEP penalizes government retirees receiving annuities based on their own earnings. For individuals who became eligible for annuities after 1985, social security checks are reduced as much as 60 percent.

The GPO stipulates that two-thirds of a government annuity offsets whatever social security benefits would be payable to a retired government worker as a spouse (wife, husband, widow, widower).

As the chapter's federal legislation chair, I have faxed letters to Senators Barbara Mikulski and Ben Cardin and to Representatives Steny Hoyer, John Sarbanes and Albert Wynn asking them to join as co-sponsors and to support enactment of S. 206 and H.R. 82. But one letter is...well, just one sheet of paper. Let's all pitch in.

Fax a note or phone both senators and whichever House member is your representative to ask for their support. Be sure to mention the bill numbers (S. 206 in the Senate and H.R. 82 in the House) so they'll know you mean business.

Phone and fax numbers are listed elsewhere in this issue under the heading Important Federal Contacts.

If you aren't sure in which Congressional district you live (3rd, 4th or 5th) give me a call at 301-262-0975.

It's especially important to introduce Rep. John Sarbanes to NARFE's legislative goals. He started his first term in the House in January and it would be well to let him know that some 240 members of our chapter are among his 3rd District constituents.

As of mid-February, H.B. 82 introduced by Rep. Howard Berman had 182 co-sponsors but none of our three Congressmen were among them. S. 206, introduced by Sen. Dianne Feinstein, had nine co-sponsors, but Senators Mikulski and Cardin were not among them. Let's bug 'em.

STATE LEGISLATION

Ed Bice

Three bills have been introduced on the equalization of the special exemption for age 65+. S.B. 183 was heard before the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee on February 7. H.B. 37 was heard before the House Ways and Means Committee on February 15. S.B. 580 is waiting for a hearing date.

For the first time groups other than NARFE supported our position on this legislation and appeared at the hearings. The supporting coalition members were AARP, United Seniors of Maryland, Maryland Retired School Personnel Association and the Black Troopers Association of Maryland.

PROGRAMS

Barbara Wheatley

Our March program will be Dan Dunne and Jeff Bowers giving a presentation on the options for Assisted Living. We have had requests for this kind of program and, hopefully, we will get all of our questions answered.

Sorry about the weather for our February program. We are trying to get Mr. Thompson in for our April program. This is not too late in the season for the type of program he has planned for us.

MARYLAND FEDERATION STATE CONVENTION

May 20-23, 2007

NARFE RETIREE HEALTH CARE TAX RELIEF BILL UNVEILED

NARFE announced that Rep. Tom Davis (R-VA), introduced legislation allowing federal and military retirees to pay their health insurance premiums with pre-tax compensation. The bill, H.R. 1110, would amend the tax code to allow Federal civilian and military retirees—as well as active duty military employees—to pay their health insurance premiums on a pre-tax basis, as active federal civilian employees can already do. This premium conversion would provide the typical federal retiree with hundreds of dollars in annual savings. An identical bill, also introduced by Davis, collected 340 cosponsors, but died in the 109th Congress.

Under this legislation, the amount retirees pay for their share of health insurance premiums would be subtracted from the amount of their income reported to the Internal Revenue Service. The income tax paid by retirees would be lower because their taxable income would be lower. Federal and military retirees would not be required to take any further action under this legislation since their reported income would automatically result in lower income tax.

NARFE President Margaret Baptiste said "I am happy to give the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association's (NARFE) strongest endorsement to the bill." Please inform your congressional contacts of your support for this bill. (*See Important Federal Contacts Box on page 3 for your local Senators' and Representatives' addresses.*)

NARFE'S SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

NARFE's 2007 Scholarship Awards competition is currently active. All applications and supportive materials must be postmarked no later than April 30, 2007. Sixty \$1,000 Awards will be given out this year.

Children, grandchildren, stepchildren and great-grandchildren of current (living) NARFE members are eligible for the 2007 awards. The applicants must be current high school seniors planning to attend college full time in the fall/winter session of 2007. They must have a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 on an unweighted 4.0 scale. Home-schooled students meeting these requirements may also apply.

For more information, contact the Office of the National Vice President at natvp@narfe.org.

A Warm Welcome to our Remaining 50 New Members!

Here are the 50 new members not named in the February Newsletter.

Clifton Morvant	Jennifer Simmons
Juanita Nappier	Charles Smiroldo
John Nester	Alyssa Smith
Glenn Oates	Annette Smith
John Paliga	Emanuel Smith
Tasha Payne-McLeod	Pamela Stevenson
Samantha Peoples	Barbara Stevenson-Jones
Tiffany Peoples	Deborah Sutton
Thomas Petras	Paulette G. Tino
Karen Petty	Elaine Tracy
Clifton Phillips	Gina Twyman
C. Plummer	Jacquelyn Veasey
Derek Pogue	Cynthia Venters
Betty R. Powell	Kevin Venters
Anita Purcell	Lynda Wallace
Octavia Purnell	Sharon Walton
Barbara Rew	Della Whorton
Ronald Rheinhardt	Cathy Williams
Alva Roane	Darlene Williams
Fleetwood Roberts	Elaine Williams
Patricia Rochester	Ida Williams
William Rogers	Joseph Williams
Errol Sanderson	Jacqueline Wilson
George C. Schoppet	Kathleen Wormley
Maxine Sharpe	Adrian Wright

Are your name and address correct on NARFE's mailing label? You can correct it at <http://www.narfe.org>. Click on "membership." You will need to enter your birthday and your membership number. the membership number is located on your mailing label.

CHAPTER 1747 TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on: January 1, 2007	\$4,265.21
Income:	992.12
Expenses:	2,139.50
Reserves:	1,774.00
Balance on: January 31, 2007	\$1,343.83

DAYS TO REMEMBER

March 11	Daylight Saving Time Begins
March 17	St. Patricks Day
March 21	First Day of Spring

NARFE CHAPTER 1747 NOMINATION FORM

Please use this form to submit your name or to nominate another member of Chapter 1747 for the following Officer positions. Those elected will serve a two-year term, from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2009.

NAME: _____

Indicate the office you are interested in.

___ President	___ Secretary
___ 1 st Vice President	___ Treasurer
___ 2 nd Vice President	___ Assistant Treasurer

Please send to: Nominating Committee
NARFE Chapter 1747
P.O. Box 504
Bowie, Maryland 20718-0504

OR: Hand deliver to Frances Steburg at any general meeting or her residence. Contact Frances for more information at 301-352-0297 or by e-mail, feks@msn.com

Note: Nominations will also be taken from the floor at the May 2007 general meeting.

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 Ben Cardin www.cardin@senate.gov	202-224-4524	fax: 202-224-1651
Representative John Sarbanes District 3 www.sarbanes.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	

Next Meeting

March 15, 2007

Assisted Living Options