



NARFE NEWSLETTER

GREATER BOWIE-CROFTON AREA

CHAPTER 1747

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

Volume 27, No. 8

April 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, 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.

❖ *General Meeting.* Thursday, June 21, 10:00 AM
Program: Luncheon and Installation of New Officers.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ed Bice

Spring is here! Chapter 1747 members will be busy. The Executive Board has voted to participate in the following activities:

April 21 ❖ *Bowie Senior Center Information Fair*

We will have an information booth staffed from 9:00 A.M.–1:00 P.M.

May 5 ❖ *Armed Forces Parade in Crofton*

This will be our first chapter appearance in this event.

May 26 ❖ *Memorial Day Parade in Bowie*

Last year was a worthwhile experience.

June 2 ❖ *Bowiefest*

We will have an information booth at this day long event at Allen's Pond.

If you would like to be a part of these activities as a participant or need further information please call me or any chapter officer.

ATTEND MEETINGS REGULARLY

Members who attend chapter meetings conduct the business of the chapter. If you want a say in chapter affairs, attend chapter meetings.

Celebrate Arbor Day ❖ April 14 at Acorn Hill Park, Bowie 10:00 A.M.

The City of Bowie's Beautification and Tree Preservation Committee will sponsor this event. A tree and plaque will be dedicated in memory of Jonas Bassen,



After an informative presentation about assisted living options, speakers Don Dunne (*right*) and Jeff Bowers (*center*), share a laugh with Chapter President Ed Bice (*left*).

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Paul Schuette

Legislation that could save every government retiree \$400 or more a year on his or her federal tax bill has now been introduced in both the House and the Senate.

The savings would come about through premium conversion, which means health insurance premiums would be paid in pre-tax dollars. To put it another way,

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payments for health insurance would not be regarded as income.

In the House, the premium conversion bill is H.R. 1110, introduced by Rep. Tom Davis (R-VA) with Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-MD), our 5th District Congressman and Majority Leader of the House, as one of the original co-sponsors. Rep. Albert Wynn (D-MD), who represents members of our chapter who reside in the 4th District, also has signed on as a co-sponsor.

We urge our members in Odenton, Crofton and other areas within the 3rd Congressional District to get in touch quickly with Rep. John Sarbanes (D-MD) by phone, letter or e-mail to ask him to co-sponsor and support H.R. 1110. Sarbanes is new to the House and we should do all we can to get his support for NARFE's legislative program.

It would be well, too, to let Congressmen Hoyer and Wynn know that we appreciate their help on this legislation.

In the Senate, the premium conversion bill, S. 773, was introduced by Virginia Senators John Warner (R-VA) and Jim Webb (D-MD). At this writing, neither Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) nor Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD) have signed on as co-sponsors though both have supported premium conversion in the past (Cardin as a House member). Let's ask them to do so again.

Premium conversion legislation has been before Congress before but there is some indication we will get a more sympathetic hearing this time around. Our chapter has more than 1,000 members now; we should be able to generate a sizeable flow of messages to our representatives in both the House and Senate.

If you use the internet, don't overlook the NARFE web site (www.narfe.org) and its Legislative Action Center as a source of information on priority legislation and a quick and easy avenue to write to Maryland members of Congress.

STATE LEGISLATION

Ed Bice

Committee hearings on our priority legislation for this session have been held. No committee votes have been taken as of this time.

You are strongly encouraged to call Delegate Carolyn Howard, District 24, who is a member of the House Ways and Means Committee, to urge her support for House Bill (H.B.) 37-Equalization Special Exemption Age 65+ and H.B. 454-Income Tax Credit for Long Term Care Premiums. The toll free numbers are

Prince Georges County (301) 858-3919; Anne Arundel County (410) 841-3919 .

You are strongly encouraged to call Senator Douglas Peters, District 23 who is a member of the Senate Budget and Tax Committee, to urge his support for Senate Bill (S.B.) 580-Equalization Special Exemption Age 65+; S.B. 429-Tax Credit for Long Term Care Premiums; and S.B.-319-Homeowner's Property Tax Credit. The toll free numbers are Prince Georges County (301) 858-3631; Anne Arundel County (410) 841-3631.

MARYLAND FEDERATION STATE CONVENTION

The convention will be held in Ocean City on May 20th-23rd. In addition to the election of officers and the discussion of resolutions, there will be workshops and interesting speakers along with a fair amount of socializing with your NARFE friends.

The convention will be held at the Clarion Resort Fontainebleau in Ocean City. There will be no increase in the cost of registration: \$35, which includes luncheon; \$40, for the banquet; and only a modest increase in the hotel room rate, \$109, plus tax. The banquet will be a gala event featuring an outstanding professional entertainer—no speeches.

Nine members of chapter 1747 attended the last convention. Please consider attending the convention this year. The chapter has provided some financial assistance for chapter attendees in the past. Please call me if you are interested.

MEMBERSHIP

Dorothy Campbell

You Can Help Solve NARFE's Membership Retention Problem

I wish I could again report another extraordinary gain of over 100 members as I told you in the February issue of our newsletter—but unfortunately, I can't. I can say that we steadily continue to add new members though. In the first two months of the year, we gained 10 new members, including two who transferred to Chapter 1747 from other chapters.

That's the good news. There is a big **however**, though. While we consistently add new members, we steadily lose some every month as well—primarily because they fail to renew their membership. But NARFE doesn't give up members easily. If the NARFE national office doesn't get a response to the "advance dues notice" it mails out, they send a

second letter about a month later. Then our chapter mails a letter asking the member to renew. And the Maryland Federation may also send a letter requesting the member to remain in NARFE. All these efforts have proved to be rather successful—but it would be better for everyone not to have to make them.

Dues Withholding Offers Discounted Dues

Members can have NARFE national and chapter dues (\$29 and \$5 respectively, annually) withheld from their annuity checks. This provides several benefits. Besides eliminating all the above-mentioned mailings and, recently, phone calls as well, dues withholding is discounted; only \$2.46 is deducted each month. **This adds up to only \$29.52 each year for the combined dues, instead of \$34.00!** It's a bargain!

NEW MEMBERS

To the following new members: A warm welcome, and we hope to see you at our upcoming meetings/events:

Gerald J. Benoit	Edward Prince
Howard Dobson	William E. Pruett
Karen M. A. Lowman	Helen Rothman
Paul D. Lowman	Diane L. Savoy
Maria Northington	Benjamin J. Simon

ISO: Single professional Bowie-Crofton chapter seeks enthusiastic partners to make major impact with minimal time investment. Volunteer for chapter positions now—elections are in May.

DAYS TO REMEMBER

April 1	Palm Sunday
April 2	Passover (begins at sundown)
April 6	Good Friday
April 8	Easter Sunday
April 9	Last Day of Passover

CHAPTER 1747 TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on: February 1, 2007	\$3,117.83
Income:	352.62
Expenses:	174.26
Reserves:	1,786.00
Balance on: February 28, 2007	\$1,510.19

INSTALLATION LUNCHEON

KAUFMANN'S RESTAURANT

THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 2007

11:30 A.M.-2:00 P.M.

MENU: Select one platter at sign-up

Tomato Stuffed with your choice

of Shrimp **or** Tuna Salad

Petite Black Angus Medium Prime Rib

Broiled Crab Cake

Broiled Flounder

Grilled Chicken Breast

Jumbo Stuffed Shrimp

Jumbo Fried Shrimp

Jumbo BBQ Shrimp

Chef's Salad

Plus:

Baked Potato

Vegetable

Dessert

Beverage

Cash bar available

Cost: (Includes tax and tip) \$22.50

Sign up at the April or May general meeting or call either

Barbara Wheatley 301-352-6234 or

Mary Catloth 301-390-2206

Kaufmann's is located on Gambrills Road a few miles north of Crofton.

REMEMBER: NARFE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE APRIL 30!

IMPORTANT FEDERAL CONTACTS

All are addressed as "The Honorable"

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

NARFE News is published ten times a year (monthly from September through June) by Greater Bowie-Crofton Area Chapter 1747, National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association, P. O. Box 504, Bowie, MD 20718-0504.

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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 Galliard	301-262-7261	
	Tom Page	301-262-3418	

Next Meeting

April 19, 2007

Gardening