



NARFE NEWSLETTER

GREATER BOWIE-CROFTON AREA CHAPTER 1747

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

Volume 27, No. 9

May 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, May 17, 10:00 AM
Program: Antiques and Collectibles Appraisal by owners of the AAA Antique Mall.
- ❖ *General Meeting.* Thursday, June 21, 11:30 AM
Program: Installation Luncheon; Speaker: Dick Strombotne of the Maryland Federation.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ed Bice

Twelve chapter members were present at the **Bowie Arbor Day Celebration** on Saturday, April 14. A tree and plaque were dedicated in memory of our late member Jonas Bassen. I thank all who attended. (It was a terrific showing!)



In Memory of Jonas L. Bassen
Nov 5, 1911 - Mar 31, 2006
Founding Member, Bowie-Crofton Garden Club
Founding Member, Bowie NARFE Chapter 1747
Founding Member, Bowie-Crofton Camera Club
Presented by the Bowie-Crofton Garden Club
and Private Contributions by Friends

Chapter elections will take place at the general membership meeting on May 17. There is still time for you to come forward and support your chapter by running for an office or serving on a committee. Put your hat in the ring by contacting Frances Steburg, Nomination Committee chair at 301-352-0927. Nominations will be accepted from the floor during the election process at our May meeting. Please be at the meeting to cast your vote.

May and June are very busy months for the Chapter. Members are needed to participate in the **Memorial Day Parade** in Bowie on Saturday, May 26, and at **Bowiefest** on Saturday, June 2. Everyone who was at either event last year told me they had a great time. I hope for an even better time at both events this year. Please call me and become part of the team. The Chapter has purchased a banner for these and other coming events.

We will hold our **Installation Luncheon** at Kaufmann's Restaurant in Gambrills on June 21. The luncheon will be held in Kaufmann's Garden Room, located at the back of the building. The room, which holds up to one hundred people, has its own entrance and parking with no stairs to navigate. Check the menu and details on page three of this issue and sign up at the May meeting. Dick Strombotne, Maryland Federation president will install our new officers, and will speak about the Federation and its future.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Paul Schuette

Those of you who use the internet should be aware that the NARFE web site offers easy access to the latest information on legislation important to federal

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workers and retirees. And if you want to dip your own oar into the federal legislative waters (as you should), the site makes it easy as well to get a message to your Senators and/or House member. Here's a rundown on how you can use the site to start lobbying on Capitol Hill:

On your own computer or a public-access computer at the library or other facility, go to *www.narfe.org* to open up the national organization's web site. Sign in as a member by entering your last name and membership number in the boxes indicated. Once you are signed in, put the pointer on the "Special Section" box at the top of the page, which brings up a menu that includes the "Legislative Action Center."

Click on the Action Center to bring up the latest information on NARFE legislation along with a box labeled "Take Action." Click on that to bring up a page with a sample message you can send and step by step directions on how to do it. In addition to "Take Action," there's also a box where you can enter your zip code to "Find Your Officials." That will bring up a lineup of the President, our Maryland Senators and the House member that matches your zip code.

Clicking on "Info" below the photo of a Senator or House member will bring up contact and other information, including "Cosponsorship Status" on NARFE's bills. Click on that and you will get a rundown on where the member stands on our legislation and an easy procedure for sending a message via letter or e-mail.

If you haven't used the NARFE web site before, the steps above should at least get you started. In addition to reporting on the status of pending legislation, the NARFE site offers a wealth of information on other topics important to current or retired feds. Try it. You may like it.

STATE LEGISLATION

Ed Bice

The 2007 session of the Maryland General Assembly has ended. There is no good news to report as our top three priorities received no favorable action. The main focus in this session was on education; an additional \$680 million allocated under the Thornton plan and another \$400 million added for school construction. Tuition rates were frozen at state colleges for the next year.

The State Legislative Committee (SLC) of the Maryland Federation hopes that the Federation President will quickly designate a new SLC chairperson. For most of this session, the committee has been guided by an acting chairperson.

PROGRAMS

Barbara Wheatley

AAA Antique Mall owners will be presenters at our May meeting. All members are asked to bring an antique, or something of sentimental value, or a picture of your antique to be appraised. This program was given at a NARFE meeting before I joined the group and was a complete success. Let's make this one as much fun as the last time. Bring a friend. There will be a short presentation; after that, the owners will have an hour to look at individual members' antiques.

Have some idea of the history of the piece—how long it has been in your family, where it came from, any trade or other identifying marks, and its condition.

Bring only one object. A place setting from a silver pattern or several photos of a piece of furniture, are actually one item. Please do not expect multiple pieces to be appraised.

MEMBERSHIP

Dorothy Campbell

Everyone is probably aware of two of the 3 R's of membership: **Recruitment** and **Retention**—but there's a third that's equally important: **Reinstatement**. Nearly every month, the NARFE national office advises us that 1–4 members who were dropped for non-payment of dues have been reinstated—and we're very pleased they're back.

Chapter 1747 welcomes back every reinstated member by letter and asks them to take an active part in the chapter. We believe that there is a something for everyone in NARFE Chapter 1747: A role to play. A position to hold. A meeting of special interest. A special event that's fun, entertaining and/or informative. A unique opportunity to work toward our common goals as federal retirees or current federal employees, or for our common interests as "seniors."

If you know someone who "used to be a NARFE member," encourage them to come back to NARFE. Remind them that **NARFE needs them and they need NARFE**.

NEW MEMBERS

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

Debra Drayton

Charles C. Sanders

Melvin M. Riley

Eileen Shoemaker

INSTALLATION LUNCHEON

KAUFMANN'S RESTAURANT
THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 2007
11:30 AM-2:00 PM

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 Dessert	Vegetable Beverage
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Cash bar available

Cost: (Includes tax and tip) \$22.50

Sign up at the May
general meeting or call either

Barbara Wheatley 301-352-6241 or
Mary Catloth 301-390-2206

Directions to Kaufmann's Restaurant

Head North on Route 3 to Route 175. Make a left on 175 (West) and go 1 mile. Turn right onto Gambrills Road. Kaufmann's is 4/10 mile on your right. There are signs on Route 175 and at the restaurant. Parking and the Garden Room entrance are on the right side, at the back of the building. There are no stairs at this entrance.

DAYS TO REMEMBER

May 13	Mother's Day
May 19	Armed Forces Day
May 28	Memorial Day Observed

NOMINATIONS FOR MAY 2007

The nomination committee has now received 5 nominees. The nominees are: Ed Bice, President; Dorothy Campbell, 1st Vice President; Barbara Wheatley, 2nd Vice President; Bob Cullen, Treasurer; and Louise Cole, Assistant Treasurer. We still need someone to step forward to fill the Secretary's position. Voting will take place at the May 17th General Meeting. Nominations from the floor will be taken at that meeting. Please be sure to attend this important meeting. If you need more information about the positions or the election process, please contact Frances Steburg. (See page 4 for contact info.)

CHAPTER 1747 TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on: March 1, 2007	\$4,296.19
Income:	396.61
Expenses:	386.30
Reserves:	1,818.23
Balance on: March 31, 2007	\$2,488.27

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

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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

May 17, 2007

Antiques and Collectibles