



NARFE NEWSLETTER

GREATER BOWIE-CROFTON AREA

CHAPTER 1747

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

Volume 28, No. 1

September 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, September 20, 10:00 AM: Program: Ten Ways to Maintain Your Brain; Speaker, Barbara DeAngelis
- ❖ *General Meeting. Saturday,* October 20, 11:00 AM: Program: Health Screenings, Federal Health Plan Open Season Information, and Flu Shots

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ed Bice

We're back!

I trust everyone had a good summer. I look forward to greeting everyone at our September 20th meeting. The Program Committee has worked diligently over the summer to present outstanding speakers for the coming year (see enclosed flyer).

Last August I presented some objectives in a Strategic Plan. They were the following:

- Increase attendance at chapter meetings and/or other events
- Develop members for chapter leadership positions
- Heighten NARFE's position and presence in the community

I believe we have made progress in all areas. We need to continue to pursue these objectives in the coming year. For instance, in the months of April, May and June the chapter participated in six special events, some for the first time. Thank you to everyone whom came out to support the chapter. I would be very happy if we could increase the attendance at meetings as that is one of my priorities this year.

Doris Gordon, our Sunshine Lady for many years, has decided to relinquish her duties. Marjorie Laios, an active member for several years, has volunteered to be the Sunshine Lady. Please keep Marjorie up to date on our members. If you know someone who needs remembering, call her at 301-262-1566 and she will send an appropriate card.

Finally thank you to Paul Schuette, Roger Leonard, Mayer Weinblatt and Doris Gordon for their years of faithful service to our chapter.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Paul Schuette

"Our primary legislative objective is to preserve the retirement and insurance benefits we earn as part of the total compensation package of careers in federal service," NARFE President Margaret Baptiste told a House subcommittee at an August hearing.

Baptiste was among the witnesses appearing before the Subcommittee on the Federal Workforce.

She told the House panel the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) does a good job of negotiating health premiums, but was remiss in declining a federal payment available to public and private employers who provide drug coverage as good or better than Medicare. That payment would have lowered FEHBP costs, she said.

Baptiste was critical of the Administration's plan to stimulate participation in Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) by offering that option in the two large, government-wide plans. HSAs have the effect of siphoning off younger, healthier enrollees, which would mean higher premiums for retirees and other older participants in comprehensive plans.

Continued on page 2

“HSAs are a solution in search of a problem; prescription drugs, the greatest cost driver in FEHBP, are a problem in search of a solution,” Baptiste declared.

She put in a plug for passage of premium conversion legislation so federal retirees would no longer be taxed on health insurance premiums. Premiums paid by active employees already are tax-free.

Baptiste asked the subcommittee to support legislation which would offer federal workers additional survivor annuity benefit options.

She called for change in a 1986 budget law which she said unfairly reduced the retirement annuities of employees who worked part-time toward the end of their careers.

STATE LEGISLATION
Ed Bice

The State Legislative Committee met during the summer to develop plans for the 2008 General Assembly session. During the June meeting the committee voted to make the following proposals legislative priorities for 2007 through 2008.

- Public service pensions should be completely exempt from State and local income taxes.
- During either the next regular session of the legislature or any special session to deal with the 1.5 billion dollar structural deficit, NARFE will support a comprehensive reform of Maryland’s tax structure.

The most immediate area of action must be the reform of the tax structure. Recent newspaper articles have documented that nearly 50% of the largest companies doing business in Maryland did not pay corporate income taxes in 2004 and 2005. In addition, Maryland’s corporate tax rate is lower than any neighboring state. Excise taxes on some products such as liquors and beer have not been adjusted in over 25 years.

Please call your legislators and tell them that you support a complete review and reform of Maryland’s tax structure. The names and numbers follows.

(All numbers are Toll Free)

District 23

Sen. Peters	301 858 3631
Del. Hubbard	301 858 3103
Del. Holmes	301 858 3310
Del. Levi	301 858 3101

District 24

Sen. Exum	301 858 3148
Del. Howard	301 858 3919

Del. Benson	301 858 3692
Del. Vaughn	301 858 3691

District 25

Sen. Currie	301 858 3127
Del. Griffith	301 858 3557
Del. Davis	301 858 3519

District 32

Sen. DeGrange	410 841 3593
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District 33

Sen. Greenip	410 841 3568
Del. McConkey	410 841 3406
Del. King	410 841 3510

PROGRAMS
Barbara Wheatley

The October meeting features the Lion’s Club Mobile Unit; Federal Health Plan Open Season presenters; and flu shots on Saturday, 20 October 2007, in the City Hall Multi-purpose room.

1 Lion’s Club Mobile Unit (front of the building) 11:00 AM until 3:00 PM. Screening includes a FREE eye exam and hearing test.

2. Federal Health Plan Open Season presenters, 12 noon until 1:00 PM. Each presenter will give an update on the changes in their respective plans. You then will be able to go to the table assigned and ask specific questions, etc. PRESENTERS CAN STAY AS LONG AS NEEDED)

3. Flu Shots 1:00 PM until 3:00 PM, Flu Shots are for MEMBERS & SPOUSES ONLY. Reserve your flu shot by calling Barbara Wheatley at 301 352 6241 or leave a message on the voice mail leaving your NAME and PHONE NUMBER. Also e-mail wheatley0@aol.com THIS REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR YOUR FLU SHOT. NO WALK INS. A return call will be made to all who leave messages. As each person calls for a reservation, you will be given a number which indicates your turn to get your shot. In other words, if your number is 5, you will be the 5th person to get your flu shot. There will be a sheet at the sign-in table with your name and number on it. If you have Medicare Part B, bring your card (no charge). If you have Aetna and are 65+, bring both your Medicare card and your Aetna card. If you are under 65 bring your Aetna card (no charge). Maxim Health Systems will file your claim. If you do not have either of these programs, you must pay cash or write a check payable to Maxim Health Systems the \$25 cost for the shot. Any questions, please call Barbara Weatley at 301- 352-6241.

CHAPTER BUDGET FOR FY 2008

July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008

	Budget 07	Actual 07	Prop. 08
INCOME			
Dues	4,400.00	4,808.28	4,400.00
Interest	0.00	20.77	25.00
Fed. Membership Initiatives	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fed. Convention Assistance	250.00	250.00	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	4,650.00	5,079.05	4,425.00
EXPENSES			
Newsletter	3,485.00	3,425.98	3,575.00
Federation Assessment	450.00	440.50	500.00
Federation Meetings	60.00	20.00	60.00
National/State Conventions	600.00	1,350.00	600.00
Legislative Conference	125.00	125.00	125.00
Liability Insurance	75.00	75.00	75.00
Membership Committee	150.00	117.00	150.00
Membership Initiatives	150.00	156.31	150.00
Sunshine Committee	25.00	14.78	25.00
Chapter-Sponsored Events	200.00	25.00	100.00
Misc: Supplies, Postage, etc.	150.00	88.00	150.00
Photography	35.00	0.00	50.00
P.O. Box	50.00	53.00	56.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	5,555.00	5,890.57	5,616.00
Variance +/-			-1,191.90
Cash balance 6/30/07			3,489.90
Estimated funds available 6/30/08			2,298.90
NEWSLETTER DETAIL			
Printing	1,580.00	1,628.00	1,700.00
Mailing Permit	160.00	160.00	160.00
Postage	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Labels	200.00	137.98	170.00
Wafer Seals	45.00	0.00	45.00
TOTAL	3,485.00	3,425.98	3,575.00

NOTE: Our chapter's share of each member's annual NARFE dues is \$5. We pay 50 cents per member annually to support the Maryland Federation of Chapters. Production and distribution of the chapter's monthly newsletter, our only means of communicating with the entire membership, costs about \$3.80 a year per member.

CHAPTER 1747 IN THE COMMUNITY

MEALS ON WHEELS

Meals on Wheels, which delivers low-cost meals to home-bound seniors and other residents with special needs, is looking for additional volunteers to help meet the needs of people in Bowie.

"Just two to three hours no more than once a month is all that we ask of volunteers," said Jim Lienesch, a MOW community coordinator. Lienesch is among a number of Chapter 1747 members who currently deliver meals in Bowie.

Hot meals and bag lunches are delivered at mid-day Mon-

day through Friday. Volunteers generally work in teams of two on a day of the week of their choosing.

If you CAN help, or would like more information, call Lienesch at 301-262-1549 or Paul Schuette at 301-262-0975.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome the following new members (from Chapter new-member lists, May-July 2007):

Donald Becker	Joseph Messina
Marjorie Brewsaugh	Raymond A. Nolte
Edith S. Brown	Conaway O'Donnell
Joel Dixon	Billy E. Painter
Purla E. Doster	Alexander Petersen
Frank E. Gay	Virginia Robinson
Tim Gilman	Eugene A. Sawney
Natalie Govan	John P. Schmidt
Carol Hammond	Thomas J. Scott
Connie Higgs	Lester B. Shepard
Evelyn Holland Walker	Shirley A. Stato
Vaughn N. Holsonbake	David L. Tate
Leona U. Illig	Rollin G. Todd
Robert J. Kalmus	Mary T. Trainum
Kathleen A. Kehoe	Daniel M. Vellucci
William J. Kneval	David D. Wagner

CONDOLENCES

The following Chapter members passed away recently. Our prayers and sympathy go to their families and friends.

Mary H. Basim	Eleanor S. Plott
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DAYS TO REMEMBER

September 3	Labor Day
September 9	Grandparents Day
September 13	Rosh Hashanah*; Ramadan
September 22	Yom Kippur*
September 23	Autumn begins

* Begin at sundown

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	Lillie Watson	301-262-5926	lwatson16@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Bob Cullen	301-262-4783	ba3537@aol.com
Assistant Treasurer	Louise Cole	410-672-6894	

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	
Events Coordinator	VACANT		
Sunshine	Marjorie Laios	301-262-1556	

Next Meeting

September 20, 2007

Maintain Your Brain

NARFE CHAPTER 1747

2007-2008 PROGRAM/SPEAKER SCHEDULE

2007

- 20 September Ten Ways to Maintain Your Brain Speaker: Barbara DeAngelis
- 20 October Lion's Club Mobile Health Unit (11:00 to 3:00) Hearing and Eye Tests
Saturday Federal Health Plan Open Season (12:00 to 1:00)
Flu Shots (1:00 to 3:00) RESERVATION REQUIRED
- 15 November Maryland Budget Deficit – Causes and Solutions
Speakers from local and state legislature
- 20 December Holiday Event Luncheon – Location to be Announced

2008

- 17 January Total Tax Service Speaker: Diane M. Polangin
- 21 February Identity Theft – “Protecting Your Private Information”
- 20 March Gardening – Speaker to be Announced
- 7 April Arthritis – Speaker to be Announced
- 15 May Social Security and the Federal Retiree
Speaker: Social Security Administration Staff Member
- 19 June Picnic – Location to be announced

Check the newsletter each month for more details.

FIRST National Memory Walk
Walk to End Alzheimer's on the National Mall
Saturday, October, 2007