



NARFE NEWSLETTER

GREATER BOWIE-CROFTON AREA

CHAPTER 1747

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

Volume 28, No. 2

www.NARFE1747.org

October 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

- ❖ *Odenton Day. Saturday*, October 6, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
- ❖ *General Meeting. Saturday*, October 20, 11:00 AM: Program: Health Screenings, Federal Health Plan Open Season Information, and Flu Shots.
- ❖ *Walk to End Alzheimers. Saturday*, October 27,
- ❖ *General Meeting. Thursday*, November 15, 10:00 AM: Program: Maryland Budget Deficit; Speakers from the Legislature.

www.NARFE1747.org is here.

See Page 3.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ed Bice

Congratulations!

Two of our members and their wives recently celebrated their golden wedding anniversaries. They are: Tom and Billie Page and Bill and Fran Park.

Make A Call/Send An E-Mail

In the September newsletter the telephone numbers of our senators and delegates were listed. I do hope you have called or will call your representatives and tell them of your support of a comprehensive reform of Maryland's tax structure. I strongly believe that the business community must pay its fair share of taxes.

We must insure that seniors across Maryland do not take an unfair tax hit or loss of services during the efforts to deal with Maryland's 1.5 billion dollar structural deficit.

The state's corporate tax has historically been 15 and 40 percent below the U.S. Average throughout the past 25 years.

A study by Ernst and Young for the Council on State Taxation (COST) found that for the FY 2006 Maryland ranked 48th among 50 states in the share of state and local taxes that were paid by businesses.

Besides calling your senator and delegates by telephone, you can go to the general assembly's website, www.mlis.state.md.us and send an e-mail directly to each legislative member. Click on *contact* or *find a legislator* to connect to that legislator.

FIRST NATIONAL MEMORY WALK

Walk to end Alzheimer's at the first National Memory Walk on Saturday, October 27 on the National Mall at the base of the Washington Monument!

Chapter 1747 will participate. Maria Francer is the captain of the "1747 Eagles." To reach our pledge goal we will need the support of chapter members to make contributions, walk, or collect donations. Make your checks payable to the Alzheimer's Association and send them to Maria Francer at 12317 Winding Lane, Bowie, MD 20715. Please call Maria or Ed Bice if you need more information or if you want to be a walker. You can also be part of the team by soliciting donations from your family and friends. We need your support, and thank you in advance for it.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

On August 15th, the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, the CPI-W, for July 2007 is 203.7, down 0.1 percent from the June index of 203.9. The CPI-W for July is 2.3 percent higher than the 2006 third quarter average base index of 199.1. For purposes of calculating the next COLA (cost-of-living adjustment) the index has increased 2.3 percent. Thus far, the index is 3.3 percent higher than the December 2006 base of 197.2

On September 13th, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) released Federal Employee Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) rates for the 2008 plan year. NARFE President Margaret L. Baptiste is pleased with the overall average FEHBP premium increase of 2.1 percent for 2008.

Prior to the upcoming "Open Season," November 12, 2007 through December 10, 2007, OPM will mail CSRS and FERS annuitants detailed information about costs and benefits in FEHBP and about the Dental and Vision plans, now in their second year. Availability of dental and vision plans, along with their premiums and benefits will vary, are not dependent upon enrollment in the FEHBP, and unlike the health insurance plans, enrollees will pay the full cost of any elected option.

More detailed information on plans, benefits, and costs will be available at our October Health Screening meeting.

STATE LEGISLATION

Bill Ferguson, Maryland Federation Legislative Chairman

Legislative Strategy 07-08

The hazy, lazy days of summer did not keep your State Legislative Committee (SLC) from meeting and working out a plan of action for the upcoming legislative session.

The bad news is that the legislators will be focused on reducing the deficit. The good news is that the legislators will be looking for ways to reduce the deficit. Our focus for the session will be to work with like minded organizations to convince the Governor and the legislature that the best solution is to revamp the state's tax code so that we can get wording necessary to equalize the senior tax deduction which was denied us when the tax code was last overhauled, and

to lobby to have the tax credits for Long Term Care premiums included as a part of the revision.

To insure that the deficit is not paid for by cutting benefits for all seniors or introducing taxes which will further increase the tax burden on all citizens, already one of the heaviest in the U.S., we will be lobbying to raise corporate income tax rates, currently one of the lowest in the nation; closing loopholes which allow businesses to avoid paying millions of dollars in taxes; and tearing down special interest fences which, for example, allow the beer, wine, and spirits industries to pay the same tax rate as they paid in the 1980's.

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 Wheatley at 301- 352-6241.

MEMBERSHIP

Dorothy Campbell

A Warm Welcome to 9 New Members . . .

David Adamec	Beverly Mosso
Bob. G. Beaman	James P. Murphy
Brent J. Bennett	Marianna Rizzo
David Miles Knight	Kent V. Winterson
Joanne S. Knight	

. . . And a Warm Welcome Back to 'Reinstated Members'

While I'm offering warm welcomes, I must mention those members whose dues had lapsed, national had dropped -- but who then paid up and were reinstated. Every month, we average 2-5 reinstatements; these mainly are "annual members" who, for whatever reason, didn't respond to dues reminders sent by national NARFE and often by the chapter as well.

Retirees Win With Dues Withholding

Why am I mentioning this group? Because for retirees there's an easy way to avoid that drop/pay up/reinstatement cycle: it's dues withholding (DW)-- the simple, painless way to pay NARFE dues. When you sign up for DW, your national and chapter dues are withheld from your annuity checks, approximately \$2.50 each month. This means no dues notices, no checks to be mailed -- and the best of all -- you get a discount of approximately \$4.50 each year! Think about it! This savings nearly covers your annual \$5.00 chapter dues!

For a dues withholding form, call me (see pg. 4) or pick one up at a membership meeting. Note: Even if you just paid your dues, fill out a DW form now and NARFE will hold it until your anniversary date.

NARFE 1747 WEB SITE IS HERE!

Our web site is up. Go to www.NARFE1747.org to see what we have done. See our monthly newsletter, both current and past; pictures of our community involvement; contact information for both our state and local elected officials; and other information we hope you will find helpful. If you like it, let us know. If you have suggestions for improvement or would like to suggest other links we should add, please let us know. You may contact us through the web page. Many thanks to Bill Meenahan for his diligent work to get us into the 21st century.



Bill Meenahan receives a NARFE cup and a certificate for his work creating our new Chapter 1747 website from Ed Bice. Check the site out at www.NARFE1747.org!



Vice President (Programs) Barbara Wheatley (far left) and President Ed Bice (far right) with September's speaker Barbara DeAngelis

CHAPTER 1747 TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on: August 1, 2007	\$3813.61
Income:	491.59
Expenses:	0.00
Reserves:	1820.06
Balance on: August 31, 2007	\$2485.14

DAYS TO REMEMBER

October 6	Odenton Day
October 8	Columbus Day (observed)
October 16	National Boss Day
October 31	Halloween
November 4	Daylight Saving Time ends

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
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	col9135.aol.com

Committee Chairs

Federal Legislation	Paul Schuette	301-262-0975	paulschuette@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	
Events Coordinator	VACANT		
Sunshine	Marjorie Laios	301-262-1556	

Next Meeting

October 20, 2007

Health Screening