



NARFE NEWSLETTER

GREATER BOWIE-CROFTON AREA

CHAPTER 1747

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

Volume 28, No. 4

www.NARFE1747.org

December 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

- ❖ *Holiday Luncheon.* Thursday, December 13, 11:30 AM: Nautilus Diner, Crofton.
- ❖ *General Meeting.* Thursday, January 17, 10:00 AM: Program: Tax information; Speaker, Diane Polangin Total Tax Service

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ed Bice

The Chapter 1747 "Eagles" participated in the Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk 2007 on the National Mall on Saturday, October 27. Team members were Maria Francer, Donna Minner, Dorothy Bice and myself. Thank you all for your contributions, as we met our goal of \$1,000.

We had an outstanding general meeting program in November. I invited six State legislators to be present to discuss Maryland's budget deficit. However, because of the special session in Annapolis, only two legislators could attend. A special thank you to Delegate Tony McConkey and Justin Ready, legislative aide to Senator Janet Greenip, from District 33. We had a large turn out, which included some new members as well as guests from other chapters. Thank you all for attending and also for quizzing our legislators.

On behalf of your officers and committee chairs, I extend best wishes to everyone for a wonderful holiday season and for the new year to be filled with peace and good health. I look forward to seeing you at the holiday luncheon on December 13th at the Nautilus Dinner (see menu on page 3).

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Paul Schuette

A Senate Finance subcommittee took a hard look last month at two provisions of the Social Security Act that adversely affect hundreds of thousands of retired government employees across the nation.

NARFE has for years sought the repeal of the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) because they reduce social security benefits earned by federal retirees and former state and local government employees.

At a news conference prior to the hearing Nov. 6, NARFE President Margaret L. Baptiste commended Sen. John Kerry (D-MA) for spotlighting the effects of the two provisions.

"Senator Kerry deserves our thanks for using his position as the Chairman of the Social Security, Pensions, and Family Policy Subcommittee to review policies undermining the earning retirement benefits of more than a million public servants," Baptiste said.

Sen. Susan Collins, the opening witness at the hearing, testified in support of S. 206, legislation she

SAVE THE DATE!

The **HOLIDAY LUNCHEON** is December 13 .

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is co-sponsoring with Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) that would repeal both the GPO and the WEP.

The GPO prevents federal retirees from collecting both their annuity and a social security benefit based on the work of a spouse. The WEP reduces social security benefits based on their own work of many federal retirees.

An estimated 971,000 public sector retirees are affected by the WEP—and 20 percent of them had paid into social security for at least 21 years.

More than 400,000 social security beneficiaries are affected by the GPO, about 72 percent of them women and many of those widows. An estimated 85 percent lost their entire social security benefit because of the GPO.

The GPO “is most harsh for those who can least afford the loss, and that is lower income women,” Senator Collins testified.

She said the offset reduces benefits by more than \$3600 a year for more than 200,000 retirees—“an amount that can make the difference between a comfortable retirement and poverty.”

The subcommittee also heard from retirees who are personally experiencing reductions in their benefits.

“It is a situation that is, frankly, intolerable,” Kerry said.

STATE LEGISLATION

Ed Bice

The Maryland Federation of NARFE now has a Political Action Committee (PAC). The necessary paperwork was sent to the state and was returned with approval to the Federation in early November. The only other existing PAC at the Federation level is in Virginia. More details to follow in the coming months.

The United Seniors of Maryland (USM) will have its annual Maryland State Legislative Rally at St. John’s College, Annapolis on January 22, 2008 (January 29 is the alternative date if the meeting is postponed because of weather). All Maryland seniors are invited to attend. There will be an opportunity to meet with some of our local legislators. More information will be provided at the January general meeting. Carpooling will be available for anyone interested in attending.

Check it out!

www.NARFE1747.org

MEMBERSHIP

Dorothy Campbell

Potential for Major Chapter Growth Looms on Horizon!

In a recent Federal Diary, *Washington Post* columnist Stephen Barr noted that “OPM projects that about 60 percent of federal employees will become eligible to retire in the next decade.” What a potential windfall for NARFE! And for our chapter, since the DC metropolitan area employs so many federal employees.

But it’s not the only source for new members for our chapter. With the influx of some 22,000 people being reassigned to Fort Meade in the next few years Chapter 1747 is likely to experience the greatest growth spurt since its inception. I expect that it will be far greater than the more than 110 members we gained in one month last year through a special deal with the NARFE Credit Union. Many of the new Fort Meade workers will likely settle in our logistical area of Bowie, Crofton, Mitchellville, Odenton and Gambrills, bringing another potential windfall to us!

As membership chair, I’m really excited about all this increased opportunity for growth. But every chapter member should be excited too —since your goal should be the same as mine: to make Chapter 1747 NARFE’s biggest chapter!

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to the 23 new members who joined our chapter or transferred to it from another chapter in the last few months. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming meetings/events.

Michael Allen
Patrick Barry
Patrick J. Beach
Robert A. Brayton
Johnny Brooks
Yvonne R. Brown-Jones
Roland Carrigan
David Devine
Harold E. Greenberg
Ruth J. Jeske
Richard K. Johnson
Kevin Lawrence

Lana B. Lewis
Dorothy D. Lopez
Marion C. McKie
John A. Mierzeski
Janice A. Moore
Virginia Pearl Orr
Ranleigh F. Payne
Maurice Ross
Mary T. Taylor
Victor S. Wagher
Diane Whitby

And, as always, we are pleased that three members whose dues had lapsed came back to NARFE.

Now that they're back, we hope to see them become active members.

And while on the subject of "reinstatements," I'd like to remind anyone who wants to come back but has misplaced the notice that national NARFE had sent you: It's easy. Just call me at 301-464-6372 or e-mail Dcbowie@aol.com and I'll send you a "reinstatement card" that allows you to pay your \$33.00 annual dues by check or charge card.

CONDOLENCES

Florence Kopstein (wife of founding member/former President Alex Kopstein, '83-'84)

Lorraine C. Meuers (founding member)

Golden L. Williams

CHAPTER 1747 TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on: October 1, 2007	\$4093.63
Income:	644.56
Expenses:	187.83
Assets:	4550.56
Obligations:	1718.06
Balance on: October 30, 2007	\$2645.92

DAYS TO REMEMBER

December 5	Hanukah
December 7	Pearl Harbor Day
December 25	Christmas
December 26	Kwanzaa

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

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Thursday, December 13, 2007

Nautilus Diner Restaurant

Corner of Rte. 3 and 424, Crofton, MD

Social: 11:30 - cash bar

Lunch: 12:00

Choice of: Roast beef
Chicken
Fish (broiled)
Meatloaf

Or Today's Special: Corned Beef & Cabbage

With: Baked or Mashed Potatoes
Mixed Vegetables

Split Pea Soup

Dessert: Strawberry Shortcake
or Chocolate Cake

Coffee, Tea, or Soda

Cost: \$19

(make check out to "NARFE Chapter 1747")

To sign up, call:

Barbara Wheatley 301-352-6241

Mary Catloth 301-390-2206

No later than December 6, 2007

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	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	paulschuette@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 Gallart	301-262-7261	
	Tom Page	301-262-3418	
Events Coordinator	VACANT		
Sunshine	Marjorie Laios	301-262-1556	

Next Meeting

December 13, 2007

Holiday Luncheon

The Holiday Luncheon is December 13 at 11:30 at the Nautilus Diner on Route 3 Southbound. From Bowie or Upper Marlboro head north on Rte. 3 to the intersection with Rte. 424. Make a U-turn at that intersection, and take the 1st right turn to the restaurant. From Odenton, head southward until the Rte. 424 intersection. The Nautilus is the 1st right after the light.