



# NARFE NEWSLETTER

## GREATER BOWIE-CROFTON AREA CHAPTER 1747

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

Volume 28, No. 6

[www.NARFE1747.org](http://www.NARFE1747.org)

February 2008

**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 10:00 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, February 21, 10:00 AM: Program: Identity Theft—Protecting Your Private Information. Speaker, Bruce Lohr, Maryland Community Crime Prevention Institute.
- ❖ *NARFE Region II Symposium.* Tuesday, March 18 and Wednesday, March 19.
- ❖ *General Meeting.* Thursday, March 20, 10:00 AM: Program: Inside Gardening. Speaker, Elaine Isman, Patuxent Nursery.
- ❖ *Senior Open House.* February 25. Talk to our state representatives. Details to be posted on our website.

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Ed Bice*

This month is a good time to make sure our membership is aware of the chapter's weather policy. Chapter meetings are cancelled when Prince George's County schools are closed due to inclement weather. Otherwise, meetings are held as scheduled.

The chapter received a holiday card from Kathleen Basquill. She lives in Northern Virginia with her son. She is a charter and honorary member of our chapter. She misses seeing all of us and extends wishes for a Happy New Year.

Dorothy Bice has volunteered to be our 50/50 person at general membership meetings. Please stop by to see her smiling face and purchase tickets.

Our program/speaker schedule is developed during the summer months. The chapter needs some members to come forth and be on a program committee. Perhaps you belong to other organizations

where you have heard interesting programs which would be of benefit to our group. Please call me so we can talk.

NARFE Region II Symposium will be held on March 18 and 19. The Symposium will be held for Region II at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Contact me to obtain detailed information about this first ever event.

### FEDERAL LEGISLATION

*Paul Schuette*

Two provisions of Social Security that reduce the benefits of nearly one million retirees nationwide were among the issues considered by a House



For more pictures from our luncheon, go to [www.NARFE1747.org/photo gallery/](http://www.NARFE1747.org/photo_gallery/)



Ways and Means subcommittee at a public hearing Jan. 16.

NARFE has long sought repeal of the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision because they reduce social security benefits earned by federal retirees.

The Subcommittee on Social Security, chaired by Rep. Michael R. McNulty (D-NY), heard a series of witnesses discuss the impact of GPO, the WEP and other provisions that impact on retirees.

A NARFE member, Frances Rosenfield, testifying for the National Association of Postmasters, told the subcommittee that because of the GPO provision, the social security survivor benefit earned by her late husband was offset by her postal annuity.

More than 70 percent of the 400,000 social security beneficiaries affected by the GPO are women, many of them widows in lower income brackets.

Legislation to repeal both the GPO and WEP has 336 cosponsors in the House, but the bill (H.R. 82) has to get to the floor to make that support count.

Those cosponsors include two of the three House members representing Chapter 1747 members, Reps. John Sarbanes (3rd District) and Albert Wynn (4th District), but the list does not include Rep. Steny Hoyer (5th District), the House majority leader.

Chapter members should get on the phone to remind Hoyer that we need his help to get H.R. 82 approved by the House. His number is 202-225-4131.

## STATE LEGISLATION

*Bill Ferguson, Maryland Federal-State Legislation Chair*

OUCH! The results of the Special Session of the General Assembly exceeded my worst predictions. Not only did we not achieve any of our legislative goals but you will end up spending more money for goods and necessary services; the gap between our senior income tax deduction and the additional deduction afforded to seniors who declare themselves as supporting senior dependent(s) will widen; and, depending on your Federal Adjusted Gross Income (AGI), you will pay more state income tax.

Your State Legislative Committee (SLC) was pleased that at least a few chapters responded to our calls for letters, emails and phone calls. So, recognizing that the Federation membership values its time, we are establishing a political action group—MDPAC—and we are asking you to donate money rather than time. We know that we can't compete on a level of the corps of high-

priced lobbyists roaming the halls of the State House. But we believe that a combination of your recorded participation in the electoral process plus the ability to provide some financial support to legislators willing to support our attempts to undo the damage done in the Special Session, could mitigate the financial hit you are going to take in fiscal year 2008. So, help yourself and help us help you by making a \$25 dollar contribution to MDPAC. Think of your MDPAC contribution as an investment, which might pay dividends equal to or greater than the amount of your contribution.

If you feel that you cannot afford \$25 dollars then give what you can but PLEASE GIVE. Send your checks to MDPAC in care of Dave Roseman, 6 Thornburn RD., Gaithersburg, MD 20878-2611.

## MEMBERSHIP

*Dorothy Campbell*

### Recruitment: 2008's Priority for Us All

I know, I know. You're reading this and saying to yourself, "There she goes again, asking me to help the chapter get new retiree members." And you're right! I am.

There are limited ways to reach out to already-retired federal employees—and we think we're doing them all now. We notify the news media about our meetings (unfortunately there's no guarantee they'll publish our meeting notices). We post meeting notice posters on bulletin boards in community buildings, senior centers, libraries and supermarkets. We regularly recruit via "information tables" at community events (last year at Bowie's Senior Center, Bowiefest and Odenton Day). We get publicity and make ourselves known by taking part in community activities (last year we had contingents in Bowie and Crofton parades and took part in other Bowie events). And we make it obvious who we are, using chapter banners we purchased last year. And I preach "recruitment" at every membership meeting.

Whenever your officers attend MD Federation meetings, we learn that our chapter's outreach efforts go far beyond those of other chapters. Yes, that makes us feel good, but it's obviously not enough if we're still not able to gain more new members from the ranks of the already retired. Even on the new-member list in this paper, six of them are current federal employees who cannot attend activities held during their work hours.

So—exactly what am I asking of you? Two things: First, open your old address book and contact former work associates who are now retired and ask them to join NARFE if they haven't already (note that one-on-one

recruiting is far more effective than wholesale recruiting). Invite them to a chapter meeting if they're skeptical. And if they join, everyone benefits; even you, since you'll get \$8 for each new member you sign up! Second, if you think of any other ways to reach out to NARFE-eligible retirees, please let me know and we'll try them.

Finally, if you agree that recruitment and participation are the keys to an even greater chapter than we have now—volunteer to help out. We always need more members for special projects and on committees.

## CONDOLENCES

The following Chapter member passed away recently. Our prayers and sympathy go to his family and friends.

**Max Teitelbaum** (Founding/Honorary Member)

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

<p><b>Caroline Courbois</b> <b>Ian Grunther</b> <b>Robert Hiller</b> <b>Lore Mabry</b></p>	<p><b>Mary McDonough</b> <b>Joseph Sumilas</b> <b>Carolyn R. Torrence</b> <b>Deborah Zimmerli</b></p>
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## RECRUITMENT / RETENTION CONTEST

### NEW! Recruitment/Retention Contest

National NARFE has just announced a special rewards program for chapters--in which it will award cash prizes to chapters in two categories--**Recruitment and Retention**--to those that sign up the most new members and to those that are the most successful at retaining current ones. In each of the two categories, the first place winner will receive \$500; the second place winner will receive \$300. The winning chapters will receive special recognition and their prize money at the 2008 National Convention.

The contest ends on June 30, 2008. **If everyone in Chapter 1747 starts to recruit new members now, and if every current Chapter 1747 member keeps his/her dues current--we stand a good chance of winning one of the prizes.**

Our chapter currently has a "pretty good" recruitment/retention record--but now let's all work together

to make it an "award-winning" record! Contact me today for more information and membership forms (see page 4) or get the forms on-line at our website: [www.NARFE1747.org](http://www.NARFE1747.org).

## CHAPTER 1747 TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on: December 1, 2007	\$4724.84
Income:	566.23
Expenses:	1071.84
Assets:	4189.05
Obligations:	1002.00
Balance on: December 31, 2007	\$2187.29

## DAYS TO REMEMBER

February 6	Ash Wednesday
February 18	Presidents' Day

## HOMESTEAD ACT

You must apply this year to maintain your lower tax rate on your main residence.

## 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	Lillie Watson	301-262-5926	lwatson16@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Bob Cullen	301-262-4783	ba3537@aol.com
Assistant Treasurer	Louise Cole	410-672-5543	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	

### **February 25: Senior Open House in Annapolis**

Come talk to your representatives!

**March 18 and 19**

NARFE Region II Symposium.