



NARFE NEWSLETTER

GREATER BOWIE-CROFTON AREA

CHAPTER 1747

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

Volume 28, No. 8

www.NARFE1747.org

April 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, April 17, 10:00 AM: Program: Arthritis. Speaker, To Be Announced.
- ❖ *General Meeting.* Thursday, May 15, 10:00 AM: Program: Social Security and the Federal Retiree. Speaker: Social Security Official.
- ❖ *Federal Employees Retirement Seminar:* Saturday, April 5, 9:30 AM.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ed Bice

Seminar for Federal Employees (CFE).

REMINDER: All current employees, especially those nearing retirement age, should attend a Seminar for Federal Employees (CFE). This event sponsored by Montgomery County Area Council of NARFE Chapters will be held on Saturday, April 5th, from 9:30 am to Noon in the Bauer Drive Community Center at 14625 Bauer Drive, Rockville. Topics covered will focus on finance, retirement issues and NARFE's involvement in legislative efforts at the state and federal levels. Reservations are not required and there is no fee. Bring a spouse, significant other or friend.

Crofton Armed Forces Parade

The event will be held on Saturday, May 3rd. Line up will begin at 9:15 am in front of Crofton Woods Elementary School on Urby Drive. The parade will begin at 10:00. Last year we had more than a dozen members and friends and two cars in our group. Please

plan to be part of this important effort to make your chapter better known to the community. For further information contact me.

Roger Leonard

The Executive Board decided to make a gift in memory of Roger to the Disabled American Veterans. He was an officer of this chapter for over 20 years and a long-time member of Bowie's DAV Chapter. Contributions can be made by check to NARFE Chapter 1747 and sent to Bob Cullen, Chapter Treasurer, 3024 Traymore Lane, Bowie, Maryland 20715. You may also bring your check or cash donation to Bob at the general membership on April 17th. Indicate on your check that your gift is for Leonard Fund. Shortly after the April meeting, one check, representing all monies collected, will be presented to the DAV. Thank you.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Paul Schuette

Congress will not act this year on NARFE's top-priority legislation, Rep. Steny Hoyer told representatives of area NARFE chapters last month.

Hoyer, Maryland's 5th District Congressman and House Majority leader, hosted a luncheon meeting of about 40 chapter leaders March 3 at the 94th Aero Squadron Restaurant in College Park.

The Congressman declared his own support for NARFE-backed legislation but he warned that the heavy financial burden imposed by the war in Iraq has put a damper on new domestic spending.

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In addition, Hoyer added, this is an election year. Congress traditionally shies away from new initiatives when members will face the voters in the fall, he indicated.

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.

Another priority is premium conversion legislation, which would allow federal retirees to pay their health insurance premiums with pre-tax dollars.

Active federal workers pay no tax now on these premiums as the result of a regulatory change some years ago. When these workers retire, however—and their incomes are reduced—the premiums are once again taxed as income.

Hoyer said this is an inequity that should be eliminated—but doesn't think that will happen this year.

The Congressman also touted his own bill, which would raise the share the Government contributes to the cost of federal health insurance. Workers and retirees need help to meet spiraling health care costs, he said.

Despite Hoyer's glum assessment of our legislation's chances this year, NARFE will continue pushing for action in both the House and Senate. The slogan, "wait till next year," may console sports fans, but it's no way to lobby on Capitol Hill.

STATE LEGISLATION

Ed Bice

The State Legislative Committee (SLC) has been busy during February and March gaining support for Maryland Federation of Chapters 2008 Legislative Programs by visiting legislators and testifying before House and Senate committees on a variety of bills (equalizing the senior tax deduction, reducing property taxes, and gaining a tax credit for a portion of Long Term Care Policy premiums).

There is still time to call, write, or email your Delegate to request support of HB 79 and your Senator to support SB 289. These bills deal with the senior tax exemption. If SB 289 carries both houses, your tax bill would be reduced by \$87. If HB 79 passes the House and then is accepted by the Senate, your tax bill would be reduced by approximately \$175. If you fail to communicate your desires to your lawmakers, you most definitely would be looking at a higher tax payment. Do yourself a favor and act.

PROGRAMS

Barbara Wheatley

Plans are made for our June Picnic. It's a two-hour buffet provided by Adam's Ribs and held in the East Pavilion at Allen Pond Park.

Date is Saturday, June 19th at noon, with a social hour starting at 11:30. Menu details and chapter contacts are on page 3.

MEMBERSHIP

Dorothy Campbell

It Pays to Belong and It Pays to Recruit

A recent NARFE publication for "recruiters" lists several reasons why members decide to renew their memberships. The list includes: to support NARFE's targeted legislative efforts; to receive NARFE publications so they can keep current on retirement/health/other benefits; to take advantage of NARFE-member benefits and discounts; and to participate in chapter activities.

They're all good reasons to renew, and to use when encouraging nonmembers to join. And they're all good reasons that "selling NARFE" shouldn't be difficult for anyone.

So give it a try. Proudly talk up NARFE. Everywhere. Anywhere. Tell prospective members why you joined and why you retain your membership, even if it's just to get the publications or because you want to support the only organization that is dedicated to preserving and protecting your earned retirement benefits or because of the chapter meetings and activities.

Carry a membership application with you in your car or your purse; you never know when you'll meet a former federal employee or one still years from retirement. Even if they don't fill it out immediately, just having the form serves as a reminder. Because I always carry forms, I was able to give an application to a woman I met at an airport who said she was going to visit her mother (a retired federal employee) -- and she promised me she'd tell her mother to join. And recently I mentioned NARFE to some strangers at a dinner table and, after a few minutes of talk, a newly retired federal employee asked how she could join. Fortunately, I was able to hand her an application to take home and mail to national NARFE. Although she lived out of the area covered by our chapter, her membership would nevertheless increase national membership -- and every member counts!

So please keep in mind that a loyal member is the best spokesperson for NARFE. And keep in mind that if you fill in the blank that calls for your NARFE number on the applications you carry and hand out -- you'll get an \$8.00 "finder's fee" for each new member who actually signs up!

Applications and other recruitment materials can be obtained at membership meetings or by contacting me (see page 4).

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Bill Bandy	Darryl A. Park
Linda E. Bass	Elisha Scott
Donald T. Chrissinger	Ruth Slade
Henrietta C. Cunningham	Harold J. Warren
Richard S. Gavlak	Mary D. Young

CONDOLENCES

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

Robert Granville

CHAPTER 1747 TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on: February 1, 2008	\$3812.65
Income:	503.05
Expenses:	345.88
Assets:	4010.82
Obligations:	1870.95
Balance on: January 31, 2008	\$2139.87

DAYS TO REMEMBER

April 1	April Fool's Day
April 19	Passover (begins at sundown)
April 22	Earth Day

CHAPTER PICNIC

**ALLEN POND
EAST PAVILION**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 19, 2008
SOCIAL 11:30; LUNCH NOON - 2:00**

TWO-HOUR BUFFET BY ADAM'S RIBS

SANDWICHES:

PULLED PORK AND
BOURBON BEEF BRISKET;
1/4 BARBECUED CHICKEN;
POTATO SALAD; COLE SLAW;
BARBECUED BAKED BEANS;
ROLLS; BUTTER;
DESSERT; WATER AND A
VARIETY OF SODAS

COST: \$17

SIGN UP AT CHAPTER MEETINGS IN
APRIL AND MAY

OR

TO SIGN UP AT OTHER TIMES, CALL

**BARBARA WHEATLEY – 301-352-6241
MARY CATLOTH - 301-390-2206**

**NARFE scholarship applications
are due in April!**

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
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Programs	Barbara Wheatley	301-352-6241	wheatley0@aol.com
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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

Next Meeting: April 17 Arthritis

Looking Ahead: May 15 Social Security