



NARFE NEWSLETTER

GREATER BOWIE-CROFTON AREA

CHAPTER 1747

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

Volume 28, No. 10

www.NARFE1747.org

June 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 June 19, 11:30 AM: at Allen Pond Park. Program: Summer picnic. Come rain to shine.
- ❖ *General Meeting.* Thursday, September 18, 10:00 AM: Program: to be announced.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ed Bice

Crofton Parade: Thank you to our participants in the parade. They were Bill and Fran Park riding in their restored VW, Dorothy Campbell, Ben Keen, Shirley De-Javanne, Marjorie Laios, Donna Minner, Evelyn Harris, and Dorothy and Ed Bice. The parade was lots of fun and certainly the chapter will participate next year. Representative John Sarbanes stopped by to see us. He was only too happy to appear in our parade photo.

Convention Delegates: There is still time for you to be a Chapter 1747 delegate to the National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, September 7 thru 12, 2008. The chapter has some money allocated for delegates' expenses. The Maryland Federation is providing chapter assistance of \$350 to any chapter sending a delegate to the convention. Please call me soon if you want to be a delegate.

This is the last newsletter until the September issue. I hope to see many of you at the picnic on Thursday, June 19th. If I don't, everyone have a most pleasant and healthy summer. I look forward to our next meeting in September. Thank you so much to the officers, committee chairs, and members for your efforts during this year. This is your chapter.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Paul Schuette

Judy Park, NARFE's long-time legislative director, retired at the end of May after a remarkable 40-year career with the organization. All of us should join in saying "thank you" for all she has done for NARFE and its members.

NARFE's primary mission is "to protect and improve the retirement benefits of federal retirees, employees and their families." As director of NARFE's legislative staff since its creation in 1976, Judy has been in the forefront of the never-ending effort to carry out that mission.

Some provisions of the federal retirement program we take for granted now wouldn't be there if it weren't for the work of Judy and other NARFE leaders.

Examples include increasing the government's share of health insurance premiums, participation by retirees in open seasons for the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, restoring full annuities to retirees upon the death of a survivor, granting survivor benefits to second spouses and extending those benefits to spouses in post-retirement marriages.

Lobbying for legislation to improve retirement benefits is important but NARFE also has to play defense at times. It wasn't all that long ago that the reduction or deferral of COLAs was a perennial threat on Capitol Hill as Congress looked for ways to pare federal spending. That threat could come back to haunt us again in the current budget crunch.

Judy Park certainly is well aware that NARFE must maintain a strong presence on Capitol Hill.

"I think, for the foreseeable future, the big issues will be protection of benefits federal employees have that

Continued on page 2

are being discounted and diminished in the private sector," she said. "The biggest challenge will be to protect what they have, particularly with inflation protection and the health benefits program that transfers from employment to retirement without any reductions."

To Judy, let us say, "Thank you." And to Dan Adcock, her successor as NARFE legislative director, "Keep it going and good luck."

2008 NATIONAL CONVENTION

Ed Bice

In the coming months, please read your NARFE Magazine for information about proposed resolutions, by-law changes and candidate information. All of which will be voted on at the convention in September. You can go to the NARFE website (NARFE.org) and click on National Convention to access the above information. Provide any input you have to any of the chapter delegates: Dorothy Campbell, Dorothy Bice, or Ed Bice.

CURRENT FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

From The Chapter 1127 Newsletter

HR5781, the Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act of 2008, if passed, would provide four weeks of paid parental leave for all federal employees, and would permit employees to use their accrued sick leave for an additional eight weeks of paid parental leave. No date has been set for floor consideration. HR5573 was introduced to allow FERS employees' accumulated sick leave to be partially "cashed out" at retirement, and HR5550 was introduced to raise the maximum age to qualify for coverage as a "child" under the health benefits program for federal employees. Over 20 cosponsors introduced HR 5718 to improve family and medical leave for federal employees and to require GAO to study the feasibility of offering disability insurance to federal workers. Contact your congressional representative to urge passage of these bills

FOR SALE: Show your chapter pride with our Chapter 1747 visor. It's bright red, with *NARFE Chapter 1747* stitched in white. Adjustable. \$17.00 each. Get yours at the June 19 picnic or call Dorothy Campbell, 301-464-6372.

MEMBERSHIP

Dorothy Campbell

NARFE R & R: An All-Year-Round Program

Although our chapter doesn't hold membership meetings or publish the chapter newsletter during the months of July and August, work of the chapter still goes on. Your executive board still meets. The program planning committee meets to plan programs for the upcoming year and other committees meet to carry out their responsibilities. Welcome letters are sent to new members and notices are sent to members in arrears. But, most important of all — recruitment of new members and retention of current members continues. This last item — known in NARFE as R & R — never stops, and it shouldn't.

But R & R can't be done by only one person, or even by all the chapter officers. It's something that requires the assistance of all chapter members. And it's not that difficult; and you may be the best person for the job. After all, you joined the organization because you knew that NARFE is the only organization in the country that fights to protect the retirement benefits of federal employees and lobbies for improved benefits -- so it should be easy for you to convince others to join the organization you support!

And remember that your spouse, even if they're not a federal employee or retiree — is eligible to join NARFE and enjoy all the benefits of belonging that you enjoy.

Recruitment of New Members Pays Off

When you've convinced someone to join, the best thing you can do is to hand them a membership application to fill out and get them to write a check for \$33.00 made out to NARFE (includes national and chapter dues). But be sure to enter your membership number on their application. Because when national NARFE gets the form, you'll get your reward: a check

CHAPTER PICNIC

Our Chapter Picnic will be held Thursday, June 19, at the East Pavilion at Allen Pond. The pavilion is covered, so this is a rain or shine event. Contact Barbara Wheatley (301-352-6241) or Mary Catloth (301-390-2206) if you have not already signed up but would like to attend.

for \$8.00 from national NARFE for each new member you've recruited! (To obtain applications, contact me and I'll send you forms that come with a prepaid mailing envelope).

Or you can tell a prospective member that they can join online, either via www.NARFE.org or www.NARFE1747.org. But be sure to give the person your NARFE number to enter on their online application so you will get your \$8.00 recruiting bonus from NARFE.

See, it's not that difficult. And it pays off. NARFE gets a new member, the new member gets a great organization to protect their retirement benefits, and you get a check. It's a win, win, win situation.



Left: Dorothy Campbell receives a certificate from BC/BS for her contributions to NARFE; Below: Ed Bice presents a certificate from the Maryland Foundation to Bob Cullen for his work as a Service Officer.



Left above: Presenter Diana Varela, Social Security Administration; Right above: Ed Bice presents the Roger Leonard Fund check to Ray Charaty, Commander of the Omaha Beach #7. branch of the DAV.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

John Belton	Nancy Morrissey
Odessa A. Chapman	Fanita Pegues
Donna Courtney	Janet Piper
Daniel David Druding	John E. Polger
Michael Galgano	Annie L. Price
Ralph W. Hager	Donald Shea
Joyce Johnson	Alphonso Walker
Clara J. Kircher	Twanna Wiggins
Maria A. Malchodi	Arlene L. Williams

CONDOLENCES

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

Vernon M. Matrese

CHAPTER 1747 TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on: April 1, 2008	\$4198.88
Income:	311.14
Expenses:	375.19
Assets:	4010.82
Obligations:	2506.23
Balance on: April 30, 2008	\$ 4842.11

DAYS TO REMEMBER

June 14	Flag Day
June 15	Father's Day

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.

Vol. 28, No. 10

Dues payments, gifts, and contributions to NARFE are not deductible as Charitable Contributions for income tax purposes.

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

check it out!

CHAPTER BOARD

Elected Officers

President	Ed Bice	301-464-3748	DE3637@verizon.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	843-347-9287	jessicaforman@yahoo.com
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	ltuveson@verizon.net
State Legislation	Ed Bice	301-464-3748	DE3637@verizon.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	DE3637@verizon.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	301-262-1566	

Next Meeting: June 19th Picnic
Enjoy the summer. See you in September.