



# NARFE NEWSLETTER

## GREATER BOWIE-CROFTON AREA

### CHAPTER 1747

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

Volume 29, No. 2

www.NARFE1747.org

October 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. Saturday, October 18,** Health Fair, **Bowie Senior Center.** 11:00 AM until 3:00 PM: Insurance Representatives, Lion's Club Screening. **Flu Shots 1:00 to 3:00 ONLY.**
- ❖ **General Meeting.** November 20, Attorney at Law Jacqueline Byrd, Esq.

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Ed Bice*

NARFE's 30th National Convention was held in Louisville, KY from September 7-12. Chapter delegates were Ed Bice, Dorothy Campbell and Dorothy Bice. There were over 1200 delegates, alternates, members and guests in attendance.

NARFE President Margaret Baptiste was reelected by acclamation after her only opponent withdrew his name from consideration. Region 10 Field Vice President Joseph Beau-doin was elected the new national vice president over two challengers. He is a former Virginia Federation president.

National Secretary Nathaniel Brown was reelected, defeating one challenger, and National Treasurer Richard Ostergren was also reelected.

He defeated two highly qualified individuals, including Maryland Federation President Richard Strombotne.

Region 2 Field Vice president Charley Saylor (Maryland) was reelected to his second 2-year term.

In other regions around the country, two women were elected as field vice presidents, positions formerly held by men. All field vice presidents are members of the national executive board (NEB).

The Nugget Hotel in Reno, NV will be the site of the 2012 National Convention, as voted by the delegates. The Nugget trounced two other Reno hotels and two in Florida. Beginning with the 2014 convention, site selection will be done by NARFE's NEB. (The 2010 convention will be in Grand Rapids, MI).

Delegates decided three other ballot items: They overwhelmingly rejected a resolution that would have reduced the salary of regional vice presidents to \$5,000 annually, plus expenses, but voted to equalize the annual salary of national treasurer with

that of national secretary (raising it to \$90,979). There was a proposal from the By-Laws Committee to create a single—or NARFE—dues of \$40 (with 10 percent going to federations and \$9.00 to chapters). This proposal created the most discussion among delegates, and received a majority of votes. However, it fell 80 votes shy of the two-thirds majority required to pass and therefore it failed.



Chapter 1747 Convention Delegates  
(from left) Dorothy Campbell, Ed Bice,  
Dorothy Bice.

### New Chapter Committee Chair

Joe Young is now our Federal Legislation chair, taking over for Paul Schuette. Paul has done a wonderful job for many years in many positions in our chapter, and is continuing to serve as a "service officer."

## FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Joe Young

Parental leave bill (H.R. 5781) passed the House by a vote of 278—146. The bill would allow federal employees to take up to four weeks of paid parental leave for the birth or adoption of a child. However, the House bill faces a presidential veto.

Current parental leave regulations, enacted by the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA), allow employees to use annual leave, sick leave, and unpaid leave toward their 12 week allowance for the birth or adoption of a child. The FMLA applies to all employees who work for companies with more than 50 employees and have recorded at least 1,250 work hours in a year's time. Employees can use up to 13 sick days toward parental leave, but must provide evidence of medical need.

The new bill applies to federal employees only. It would allow federal employees to be paid for four of the 12 weeks of parental leave authorized by FMLA. The bill would also allow the Feds to use unused sick leave without providing evidence of medical need up to an additional four weeks.

The White House has threatened to veto the House bill, citing the cost which is estimated at \$850 million over five years as a major concern. As an alternative, the administration has proposed allowing federal employees to purchase a short-term disability insurance benefit for parental leave, accidents or illness. The insurance benefit would provide 60 percent of the employees' salary for 12 weeks and 40 percent for an additional 12 weeks.

The bill supporters believe an override of the President's veto is possible. A similar bill (S. 3140) introduced in the Senate, by Jim Webb, D-VA would give federal employees up to 21 days of paid parental leave. The bill was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs but has not been scheduled for action.

NARFE supports paid parental leave legislation and has worked with leaders on Capitol Hill to urge its approval. NARFE National President Margaret L. Baptiste wrote to congressional leaders in support of the bill, emphasizing that "NARFE believes that extending paid parental leave to federal employees will assist federal agencies in their ongoing recruitment and retention efforts." Baptiste also urged leaders to consider adding a provision that would extend parental leave to federal employees caring for elderly parents. While this provision was not included in the House-passed

version, it could be added to the Senate measure or in a final version sent to President Bush.

## Programs

Barbara Wheatley

Our Saturday, October 18, 2008 program at the **Bowie Senior Center**, includes Lion's Club Mobile Hearing and Vision Screening Unit, Federal Health Plan Open Season presenters, and flu shots.

1. Lion's Club Mobile Unit (parked beyond the second entrance), 11:00 AM till 3:00 PM.

2. Federal Health Plan Open Season, 12 noon till 1:00. Each presenter will give an update on the changes in their respective plans. You will then be able to go to the table assigned and ask specific questions, etc. PRESENTERS CAN STAY AS LONG AS NEEDED. (Classroom #2)

3. Flu Shots **1:00 till 3:00 ONLY**; registrations are required. You cannot get a flu shot before 1:00 or without a registration number. Registration numbers are available by calling Barbara Wheatley at 301-352-6241 or by leaving a message on her voice mail containing your NAME and PHONE NUMBER. E-mail: [wheatley0@aol.com](mailto:wheatley0@aol.com)

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 Healthcare Services will file your claim. If you do not have either of these programs, you must pay cash or write a check payable to Maxim Healthcare Services for the \$30 cost for each shot. (Classroom #1)

Any questions, please call Barbara Wheatley at 301-352-6241.

## MEMBERSHIP

Dorothy Campbell

### The New R & R: Retention & Retention

No, that headline isn't wrong. While R & R—normally Recruitment and Retention—both received much attention at NARFE's National Convention, it was generally acknowledged that current recruitment efforts by chapters, federations and the national office earned consistently good marks. However, everyone agreed that our efforts to retain members need added emphasis. Over and over speakers stressed that chapters must step-up whatever programs they now have in place to contact members whose dues are due/

overdue. (National NARFE sends each of these members two letters, approximately a month apart.) And it was generally agreed that personal contact was far more effective than letters.

Currently, our chapter also sends personalized letters to members whose dues are expiring. And when its feasible, we phone those members as well. But this is an extremely time-consuming task, and really requires the assistance of several people.

Sooooo ... Are YOU willing to devote a little time to help make these calls? Just a few volunteers would help a great deal. To find out more and/or to volunteer, call me at 301-464-6372, e-mail me at Dcbowie@aol.com (please put "retention calls" in the subject line) or see me at a membership meeting.

Finally, my thanks to our chapter members for the opportunity to represent you at the national convention. This was my third one, and it was the best in every way. It was run extremely efficiently, enabling us to complete all of our work and even enjoy a bit of Louisville. And it made history: For the first time in NARFE's 80+ years, the newly-elected 14-member national executive board includes three women (President Baptiste and two regional vice presidents)!

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

- |                             |                        |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Victoria M. Clements</b> | <b>Vincent Schaper</b> |
| <b>Lashell Coleman</b>      | <b>Elezsa Waters</b>   |
| <b>Paul Frey</b>            | <b>Richard Weiss</b>   |
| <b>Tarek Graves</b>         |                        |

**CONDOLENCES**

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

**James W. Reed**

**DAYS TO REMEMBER**

- |            |                                   |
|------------|-----------------------------------|
| October 8  | Yom Kippur<br>(begins at sundown) |
| October 9  | Yom Kippur (ends at sundown)      |
| October 13 | Columbus Day (observed)           |
| October 31 | Halloween                         |
| November 2 | Daylight Savings Time Ends        |

**DO YOU STILL WANT TO RECEIVE THE HARD COPY OF THE NEWSLETTER?**

At our September meeting it was pointed out that we could save money for our chapter if we can reduce the number of copies of the newsletter that are sent out each month. If you had noticed on the proposed budget we will be spending over \$3600 a year to print and mail the newsletter to you. If you would like to stop receiving the newsletter, please send an e-mail message to Frances Steburg (see page 4). In the e-mail, please provide me with your name and your zip code plus 4 number. Please remember, you can always see the newsletter on our web site: NARFE1747.org.

**Don't Forget our Holiday Luncheon: Coming in December! (Date, Location, and Cost in the November Issue.)**

**CHAPTER 1747 TREASURER'S REPORT**

Balance on: June 1, 2008	\$5760.66
Income:	728.50
Expenses:	2436.32
Assets:	4052.84
Obligations:	1739.66
Balance on: June 30, 2008	\$4052.84

**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. 29, No. 2

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	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	410-672-6528	col9135@aol.com

### Committee Chairs

Federal Legislation	Joe Young	301-218-5187	JosephYoung48@yahoo.com
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	

**October: Health Information and Flu Shots**  
**Saturday, October 18 at the Bowie Senior Center.**

**November: Jacqueline Byrd, Esq.**