



NARFE NEWSLETTER

GREATER BOWIE-CROFTON AREA

CHAPTER 1747

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

Volume 29, No. 3

www.NARFE1747.org

November 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.* November 20, Columnist and Attorney at Law Jacqueline Byrd, Esq.
- ❖ *Holiday Luncheon.* December 18, The Nautilus Diner Restaurant, Social 11:30 AM, Lunch: 12:00 noon

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ed Bice

During the recent National Convention, delegates approved NARFE's Legislative Program that reaffirms commitment to preserving the earned economic and health security of federal annuitants and workers; supports legislation to allow civilian and military retirees to pay for their choice of health insurance premiums with pre-tax dollars; and legislation to repeal or reform the unfair and arbitrary Social Security Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). Newly added parts of the program include: support of legislation allowing FERS employees credit for unused sick leave toward retirement, and legislation extending FEHBP coverage of dependents of federal employees and retirees until age 25.

Thank you to **Marjorie Laios** and **Barbara Wheatley** who helped **Dorothy Campbell** and **Ed Bice** staff our information tables at the recent Bowie Senior Information Fair and Odenton Day.

Congratulations to Chapter members **Harriet Bury**, **Dale Grant**, **Tom Page** and **Ed Bice** who participated in the Maryland Senior Olympics in September. All earned at least two medals.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Joe Young

Historic Financial Rescue Bill

Lawmakers burned the midnight oil to complete work on a controversial and historic financial rescue package to address serious problems in the credit markets and prevent the Nation from sinking into a deep recession.

On October 3, 2008 the House passed the \$700 billion Emergency Economic Stabilization Act, H.R. 1424, clearing this legislation for the President's signature. The vote was 263-171. The President signed the bill into law the very same day.

The House voted to reverse its earlier defeat of the rescue bill, due in part by calls from fearful constituents experiencing difficulty securing loans or lines of credit. Many lawmakers were also persuaded by revisions to the bill to include fresh financial disaster assistance and tax breaks for families and businesses, adding \$107 billion over the next 10 years.

The main provisions of the bill will allow the Department of the Treasury to do the following:

- ❖ Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson to buy up to \$700 billion in bad mortgage-related securities and other bad assets.
- ❖ Treasury Department to modify mortgage terms to help homeowners avoid foreclosure.
- ❖ Government to receive equity in companies it helps so that taxpayers get a share of future profits.
- ❖ Restrict executive pay for companies aided by the program.
- ❖ Create an independent oversight board to oversee the Treasury Department program.

Continued on page 2

This bill also contained some controversial add-on provisions unrelated to Wall Street. They include \$8.3 billion a year for research tax credit for companies; \$109 million this year for NASCAR racetrack builders; \$62 billion this year to spare 24 million households from an increase in the alternative minimum tax; \$478 million in 10 years for movie or TV producers who shot films in U.S.; about \$200,000 per year to repeal a 39 cent excise tax on wooden arrows for children; \$17 billion of incentives to promote alternative energy; \$8 billion for Americans affected by hurricanes and floods; and \$192 million for rum producers in Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands.

One can only guess the impact the Rescue Program will have on the Federal deficit, which is soaring to record heights. One thing is for sure, the Treasury will have to borrow the money: The bill increases the legal debt limit by \$700 billion to \$11.3 trillion.

Upon completion of the bill, the House joined the Senate in adjournment for the November elections, subject to the call of the chair.

The next cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for millions of retired and disabled Americans will be 5.8 percent, the largest since March, 1982. The FERS annuity adjustment will be 4.8 percent.

The September 2008 Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) is 214.935, a decrease of 0.1 percent from the August index of 215.247.

STATE LEGISLATION

Ed Bice

The State Legislative Committee (SLC) held a one-hour training session at the October Federation meeting. The legislative handbook developed by the committee was distributed to chapter presidents and chapter points of contact.

The attendees wrote cards—addressed to Governor O’Malley—detailing our support of legislation that will equalize the additional personal tax exemption for all Maryland residents 65 and older.

SLC members continue to seek sponsorship for our priority legislative goals in the 2009 General Assembly session.

The Maryland Political Action Committee (MD-PAC) is still seeking your support. Political involvement and financial assistance are necessary to achieve our goals. The Maryland PAC was recently used to send representatives from the Gaithersburg, Rockville and Bowie-

Crofton Chapters to fundraisers for two state delegates. MD-PAC receives requests from politicians for support. If it is determined by the committee that he/she is a friend of NARFE and would support our 2009 agenda, then support is considered. We need to participate in as many of these types of events as possible.

Please help by contributing to the Maryland PAC. Checks should be made out to MD-PAC and sent to Dave Roseman, Treasurer, 5 Thorburn Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20878.

Programs

Barbara Wheatley

Our November speaker is Attorney Jacqueline D. Byrd. She specializes in Elder Law and also is the author of the weekly column “Senior Moments” in *the Bowie Blade*. When speaking to us, she will provide an overview of a LIFE Plan. The LIFE plan covers a range of topics including: matters related to important legal documents to have in place; encouragement to make decisions before someone else does it for you; and guidance on whether to consider a Last Will and Testament or a Trust. She enjoys taking questions from the audience.

MEMBERSHIP

Dorothy Campbell

‘Distinguished Members’ Replaces ‘Honorary Members’

Although your three Chapter 1747 delegates to the NARFE National Convention (Ed and Dorothy Bice and I) voted AGAINST it, a two-thirds majority of the delegates voted to drop the category of “Honorary Member” and replace it with a new category: “Distinguished Member.”

As was the case with Honorary Members, each Distinguished Member will be recognized with a special pin and ID card when they reach their 85th birthday if they have been a NARFE member for 20 years. HOWEVER (and this is why we voted against the national by-law change), Distinguished Members will still have to pay national dues; previously national dues for Honorary Members was waived. The waiving of chapter dues was always discretionary; our chapter’s policy was to waive it for Honorary Members—and we will continue to waive chapter dues for both Honorary and Distinguished Members.

The new change “grandfathers” current Honorary Members; they will not have to pay national dues. However, if they wish to “upgrade” (NARFE’s language!) their status to Distinguished Member, they may do so by continuing to pay national dues!

The delegates who voted to make this by-law change evidently did so based on financial considerations, including the large number of current Honorary Members and the aging of NARFE’s membership. However, your delegates believe that NARFE should continue to hold in high esteem those members who fill the age/membership requirements—and changing the name of the dues category AND charging them dues is belittling and wrong-headed. Any questions, contact me (see page 4).

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Bonnie Briscoe
Ella Edmond

Grace L. Swanson
Gene Tichenor

CONDOLENCES

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

Samuel C. Plott

CHAPTER 1747 TREASURER’S REPORT

Balance on: August 1, 2008	\$4104.13
Receipts:	267.14
Disbursements:	778.72
Balance on: August 31, 2008	\$3592.55
Balance on: September 1, 2008	\$3592.55
Receipts:	667.57
Disbursements:	151.00
Balance on: September 30, 2008	\$4109.12

DAYS TO REMEMBER

November 2	Daylight Savings Time Ends
November 4	Election Day
November 11	Veterans Day
November 27	Thanksgiving

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Nautilus Diner Restaurant

Corner of Routes 3 and 424, Crofton, MD

Social: 11:30 AM, cash bar

Lunch: 12:00 noon

Choice of:

***Corned Beef and Cabbage
Meat Loaf with Potato and
Vegetable***

***Broiled Tilapia with Potato and
Vegetable***

***Half Chicken with Potato and
Vegetable***

Includes:

Cup of Soup

Coffee or Soda

***Strawberry Shortcake, Coconut
Cake or Chocolate Cake***

Cost \$19.00

**(Make checks payable to
NARFE Chapter 1747)**

To Sign up Call Barbara Wheatley:

301-352-6241

NO LATER THAN

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2008

Want to get your NARFE Newsletter on the web instead of by mail?

Contact Frances Steburg with your name and zip code plus four information. (See page 4)

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.

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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	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	

November 20: Jacqueline Byrd, Esq.
Ms. Byrd specializes in legal issues for senior citizens
and writes a weekly column for the *Bowie Blade*.

December 18: Holiday Luncheon.
11:30 AM at The Nautilus Diner