



NARFE NEWSLETTER

GREATER BOWIE-CROFTON AREA

CHAPTER 1747

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

Volume 29, No. 7

www.NARFE1747.org

March 2009

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.* March 19, Gardening. *Presenter:* Mr. Gene Sumi
- ❖ *General Meeting.* April 16, Reverse Mortgages
- ❖ *Maryland NARFE Convention.* May 3–6, Ocean City, MD. (*Details, page 3*)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ed Bice

I hope you read my call for volunteers to serve our chapter for the next two years as our officers and committee members (*See the article titled ISO UFO's in the February Newsletter*). This month there is a nomination form in the newsletter for your use in applying for those positions, or for nominating another member.

In the February 2009 NARFE magazine there were several articles that should make everybody glad they are NARFE members. On page 18 is an article detailing changes to the BC/BS health insurance plan. NARFE was the key player in getting the appropriate parties to reopen negotiations for non-emergency

surgical procedures coverage. NARFE's efforts to push OPM to apply for Medicare employer payment were spelled out on page 12.

The NARFE magazine is a significant recruitment tool but only if we use it more frequently to show everyone how important NARFE membership is to current and retired workers.

You Are Invited

The NARFE Montgomery County Area Council will hold a pre-retirement meeting on Saturday, April 4, 2009 for active federal employees. The council is inviting three speakers to make presentations: (1) a financial planner; (2) David Snell, Director of Retirement Benefits Services from NARFE's National Office; and (3) Dick Strombotne, NARFE MD Federation president, to discuss NARFE's federal and state legislative programs. Federal employees who are still working but may be retiring in the next few years should plan on attending this event, which will be held at the Bauer Drive Community Center, 14625 Bauer Drive, Rockville, MD, starting at 9:30 AM. The program will begin at 10:00 AM. No pre-registration is required; currently-employed federal employees are encouraged to bring their friends and colleagues to this meeting.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Joseph Young

On February 13, 2009, both houses of Congress passed a \$787 billion stimulus package designed to create or save millions of jobs through new investments in energy, transportation, health care, construction, and education projects while reviving social



Are YOU in Chapter 1747's Future?
See page 3

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safety-net programs that have seen their funding reduced or remain stagnant for three decades.

The bill passed the House 246 to 183 without any support from the Republican side of the aisle. The Senate passed the bill 60 to 38 with help from three courageous Republican Senators. The Senate vote was not without political theatrics; the Senate proceedings remained open for nearly six long hours as Senate leaders awaited the return of Senator Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) from his mother's wake to cast the decisive 60th aye vote.

The stimulus package combines tax cuts with new spending designed specifically to help jump start the nation's ailing economy by repairing or replacing aging roads, bridges, and electricity grid. It will also include computerizing healthcare records and investing in alternative energy research to address climate change and decrease our dependence on foreign oil.

Three-quarters of the money is planned to reach state capitals, businesses, and individual taxpayers by the end of September 2010.

STATE LEGISLATION

Ed Bice

Members of the State Legislative Committee (SLC) and others presented written and verbal testimony before the Senate Budget and Taxation and House Ways and Means Committees during the week of February 9th. The following bills were heard: SB 185 - Senior Tax Relief Act of 2009, SB 236 - Income Tax Subtraction Modification - Federal Pensions, and SB 282 - Income Tax Credit for Long Term Care Premiums. Also HB 68, and HB 240 - Income Tax Exemption Amounts - Blind and Elderly Individuals, and HB 156 - State Property Tax Homeowner's Property Tax - Assessment Cap Reduction.

You are encouraged to write, e-mail, or telephone your senator and delegates encouraging them to support and vote for the above legislation. Please help the SLC to get more money in your pockets and/or keep money in your pocket.

Maryland Federation Convention Will Be Held May 3-6

Maryland NARFE will be holding its biennial convention in Ocean City, MD at the Clarion Fontainebleau Hotel on May 3-6, 2009. This is a great chance for

you to join in deciding who the new leadership of Maryland NARFE will be, to take part in setting new directions for Maryland NARFE, to meet other NARFE members from all over Maryland, and to have a good time.

NARFE's policies are decided by its members through their convention delegates. If you have an idea for improving NARFE, or the Maryland Federation, you can submit your idea as a resolution. The deadline for this convention has passed, but its not too early for next year. Consult with President Ed Bice on the appropriate way to do it.

Hotel rates for the convention are a bargain compared with regular season rates. Fees for registration at the convention and the banquet are reasonable as well, and there may be financial assistance for the registration and banquet. Anyone interested in attending should contact Ed Bice, who can provide more details.

MEMBERSHIP

Dorothy Campbell

Contest, Recognition, and Pin: Reasons to Recruit New Members

Chapter Recruiting Contest: Last year, national NARFE held a nationwide recruitment contest for chapters, awarding cash prizes to those which recruited the most members. Unfortunately, our chapter wasn't even in the running. But we've got another opportunity this year with NARFE's new recruitment contest—about which you'll learn more from NARFE magazine and our newsletters.



Member Award Program: NARFE will send a "finder's fee"—a check for \$8.00 to members who

recruit active federal employees. In addition, recruiters will receive a "recruiter recognition pin" and their name will be listed in the NARFE publication, "Recruiter's Journal."

Selling NARFE to Potential Members

The Value of Belonging: NARFE is the only organization that exclusively protects the earned benefits of federal retirees by its assertive legislative representation on national and state levels and its relationship with OPM. Also, members receive the informative national magazine, have access to the website and e-mail messages; health, life, dental and long-term care insurance programs; a credit union; and travel, moving and other product discounts. At the chapter level, NARFE members enjoy informative meetings and a monthly newsletter, participation in community, legislative and social events, and the opportunity to meet/interact with other federal retirees/active employees.

Recruitment materials and membership forms are available at membership meetings or contact me by telephone, 301-464-6372 or by e-mail, Dcbowie@aol.com.

NARFE CHAPTER 1747 NOMINATION FORM

Please use this form to submit your name or to nominate another member of Chapter 1747 for the following Officer positions. Those elected will serve a two-year term, from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2011.

NAME: _____

Indicate the office you are interested in.

___ President	___ Secretary
___ 1 st Vice President	___ Treasurer
___ 2 nd Vice President	___ Assistant Treasurer

Please send to: Nominating Committee
NARFE Chapter 1747
P.O. Box 504
Bowie, Maryland 20718-0504

OR: Hand deliver to Ed Bice at any general meeting or his home. Contact Ed for more information at 301-464-3748 or by e-mail, DE3637@verizon.net.

Note: If you have several other member nominations, copy this form or write each on another paper, giving the member's name and office. Nominations will also be taken from the floor at the May 2009 general meeting.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

John Giler	Richard Strafella
Linda S. Kline	Jacob Thompson
Irfan Kucukcetin	Cynthia Vaughn
David Nikolaus	Eugene D. Wolny

CHAPTER 1747 TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on: January 1, 2008	\$3272.05
Receipts:	431.38
Disbursements:	266.06
Balance on: January 31, 2008	\$3437.37

CONDOLENCES

The following chapter members passed away recently. Our prayers and sympathy go out to their families and friends.

Sylvia Krasney	Eileen C. Soares
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DAYS TO REMEMBER

March 8 – Daylight Savings Time Begins
 March 7–10 – NARFE Legislative Training Conference (National)
 March 17 – St. Patrick's Day
 May 3–6 – Maryland NARFE Convention (State)

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. 7

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

**So what is a
Reverse Mortgage
anyway**



Find out at our April Meeting.

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	Joseph 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	

March 19: Gene Sumi on Gardening

April 16: Reverse Mortgages.

Could you be an officer or committee chair?

Contact Ed Bice.