



NARFE NEWSLETTER

GREATER BOWIE-CROFTON AREA

CHAPTER 1747

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

Volume 29, No. 8

www.NARFE1747.org

April 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.* April 16, Reverse Mortgages. *Presenter,* Mr. John Ferguson, Esq. President, Main Street Settlements.
- ❖ *Maryland NARFE Convention.* May 3–6, Ocean City, MD. (*Details, page 3*)
- ❖ *General Meeting.* May 21, Review, 2009 General Assembly Session

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ed Bice

Thank you to our new webmaster, Howard "Flash" Gordon, who took over in February. Flash updates our site monthly, and has some ideas for the site in the coming months. Click on NARFE1747.org and take a look.

Parades and Bowiefest

The Executive Board has voted for the chapter to participate in the Crofton Armed Forces/Homeland Security Parade on Saturday, May 2; the Bowie Memorial Day Parade on Saturday, May 23; and Bowiefest, Saturday, June 6. You may remember that our chapter was awarded the "First Place" prize as the best non-profit contingent in the 2008 Bowie parade.

I urge all members to come out and support your chapter by being part of our efforts to publicize NARFE.

Chapter Elections

Once again, please note the nomination form for officers in the newsletter for 2009-2011. The chapter needs members to step up. The need for help is also critical in the following areas: Editor(s) of the Chapter

newsletter and Chair/members of the Program Committee. For more information, contact Barbara Wheatley (programs) or me if you're interested in these critical chapter functions.

NARFE-PAC

NARFE-PAC is your political action committee. I urge members to read the March issue of the NARFE magazine which highlights NARFE-PAC. It clearly details how and why the PAC is in existence (it was established to protect your earned benefits). NARFE is "our defense fund in a potentially hostile environment."

Our retirement and health benefits are and will be under review for the foreseeable future as President Obama proceeds on his active agenda. Just the other day a U.S. senator spoke about taxing employee-provided health benefits.

How do you help our PAC protect your earned benefits? Contribute yearly to NARFE-PAC. Go to the March issue of NARFE magazine for a coupon and instructions on how to donate. Those who donate \$20 or more will receive a pin indicating they have contributed.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Joseph Young

Legislative Training Conference 2009

On March 7, 2009, the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) convened for its Eleventh Biennial Legislative Training Conference. It was held at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City, Arlington, Virginia.

The Training Conference was well attended by NARFE members from as far away as Hawaii. It was

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a great opportunity for me to meet other chapter members and discuss issues common to all chapters, such as increasing and retaining membership and maintaining and controlling chapter operating costs.

Training Conference participants attended morning and afternoon break-out sessions which covered "NARFE-PAC, Health Care Issues, the U.S. Budget, Grassroots Organizing and Contacting Congress". I found the sessions to be informative and well done. I came away from these sessions with a better understanding of the issues. It was well worth the \$150 price tag.

We were also treated to conference speakers that addressed issues ranging from the budget to health care. The following speakers addressed NARFE's Eleventh Biennial Legislative Training Conference:

- James R. Horney is the Director of Federal Fiscal Policy, at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, where he specializes in federal budget issues.

- Congressman Chris Van Hollen (Dem.—MD) was elected to Congress in 2002 in a high profile election that received national attention and has quickly earned a reputation as an active, engaged, and effective member of Congress. Rep. Van Hollen is Chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee and serves on the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

- Congressman Frank R. Wolf, the most senior of the 11 members of the House of Representatives from Virginia, is serving in his 15th term in Congress. He represents the 10th District of Virginia, which stretches from McLean to Winchester. Congressman Wolf sits on the powerful House Appropriations Committee, where he is the lead Republican on the Commerce-Justice-Science Subcommittee. He also serves on the Transportation and Housing and Urban Development Subcommittee. In addition, he is the co-chairman of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, a bipartisan organization made up of more than 200 members of Congress who work together to raise awareness about international human rights issues.

- Dr. Marilyn Moon is Vice President and Director of the Health Program at the American Institutes for Research. A nationally-known economist and expert on Medicare, aging and health care financing, Dr. Moon has served as a public trustee for the Social Security and Medicare trust funds. She has written extensively on health policy, both for the elderly and the population in general, and on social insurance issues. Her most recent book, *Medicare; A Policy Primer*, was published in 2006.

- Norman J. Ornstein is a resident scholar at American Enterprise Institute. He also serves as an election analyst for CBS News and writes a weekly column called "Congress Inside Out" for *Roll Call* newspaper. He has written for the *New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Foreign Affairs*, and other major publications. He regularly appears on television programs such as ABC News Nightline, PBS's Charlie Rose, and The News Hour with Jim Leher, where he was recently recognized as the most frequent guest over the program's thirty years. He was the first "pollster" for the Comedy Central Network working with Al Franken in 1992, and was the first guest to appear twice on "The Colbert Report."

On Tuesday, March 10, 2009, the Legislative Training Conference concluded with a successful day of lobbying. The lobbying team of Bill Ferguson, Chuck Thomas, Ed Bice, Nancy Leonard, Tom Leonard, and Joe Young met with assistants for Senator Ben Cardin, Senator Barbara Mikulski, and Representative Steny Hoyer to request that they support and cosponsor committee action on "Premium Conversion" H.R. 1203 introduced by Rep. Chris Van Hollen and S. 491 sponsored by Senator James Webb, legislation to allow all federal annuitants and military retirees to use pre-tax earnings to pay their share of health insurance premiums.

We also requested that they act to eliminate both "Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) H.R. 235, introduced by Rep. Howard Berman and S. 484 sponsored by Sen. Dianne Feinstein.

Presently, the GPO law prevents federal, state, and local government retirees (who were first eligible to retire in December 1982 and later) from collecting both a government annuity and one based on their spouse's work record. This law provides that two-thirds of the government annuity offsets whatever Social Security benefits would be payable to the retired government worker as a spouse (wife, husband, widow, etc.). A federal retiree with a monthly annuity of \$900 and no Social Security coverage of her own would receive a greatly reduced widow's benefit from the program on the death of her husband as a result of GPO.

Under the WEP, the Social Security Amendments of 1983 include a provision that greatly reduces the social security benefit of a retired or disabled worker who also receives a federal, state or local government annuity based on his/her *own* earnings. It applies to anyone who becomes 62 (or disabled) after 1985 *and* becomes eligible for his/her government annuity after 1985. Congress provided for a five-year phase-in on

the reduction so that the maximum effect would not be felt until 1990.

MEMBERSHIP

Dorothy Campbell

Getting Our Message Out

We **ALL** need to take more responsibility in “selling” NARFE and Chapter 1747 and in convincing prospective members of the value of belonging to our organization..

If you’ve read my newsletter articles or heard me speak you know that I consider all members to be recruiters – particularly the ones who attend our educational, interesting and entertaining meetings. I applaud those of you who get out the message that our chapter has an outstanding variety of programs and events, that we participate in many legislative activities, and that our chapter plays an active role in the communities in which our members live. And I further commend those who bring a spouse, friend or neighbor to a meeting or event – the best way to recruit and “sell” us to prospective members.

But now I’m urging that while you’re recruiting and “selling NARFE” for the benefits it provides on the national and state levels, you stress the value of belonging and participating in our chapter. Yes, I’m prejudiced; I believe we’re one of the best chapters in NARFE. We have great meetings, outstanding social events (special luncheons/picnics), and we regularly lobby our representatives in Annapolis. We have established a strong presence in our communities through our participation in fairs, parades and other ceremonial events. And not only have we made our name known, but we even won a trophy at Bowie’s Memorial Day parade last year.

But we know that there are many federal retirees (and active employees) who still aren’t NARFE/Chapter 1747 members – and they should be. So if you know any, tell them about us. Invite them to a meeting or event. Give them our web address or suggest they call an officer and we’ll send them more information. But whatever you do, get the message out that if they’re not a NARFE/Chapter 1747 member, they’re really missing out!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

John Brumit
Frank P. Fitzmaurice
Faye M. Miner
James Pegues

Sharron L. Sample
Jeffrey Steward
Sharon E. Sweeney
William E. Weizel

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
___ 1st Vice President ___ Treasurer
___ 2nd 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. If you would like to nominate a chapter member for any position, copy this form or write each nomination on blank paper, giving the member’s name, the office, and your name. Nominations will also be taken from the floor at the May general meeting.

CHAPTER 1747 TREASURER’S REPORT

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|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Balance on: February 1, 2009 | \$3437.37 |
| Receipts: | 372.91 |
| Disbursements: | 840.77 |
| Balance on: February 28, 2009 | \$2962.51 |

DAYS TO REMEMBER

April 8 – Passover
April 12 – Easter
April 30 – NARFE Scholarship Applications deadline
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. 8

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 | 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 | |

April 16: Reverse Mortgages and other housing questions.

May 21: Review of the 2009 General Assembly Session.

Don't be shy: Nominate yourself for a chapter position!