



NARFE NEWSLETTER

GREATER BOWIE-CROFTON AREA

CHAPTER 1747

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

Volume 29, No. 9

www.NARFE1747.org

May 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

- ❖ *Maryland NARFE Convention.* May 3 – 6, Ocean City, MD.
- ❖ *General Meeting.* May 21, Review, 2009 General Assembly Session; Election of Officers
- ❖ *General Meeting.* June 18, Installation Luncheon

To All Members: Chapter Constitution Amendment(s)

Enclosed with this newsletter is an updated version of our chapter's constitution as reworked by a committee of current and past chapter officers: Dorothy Campbell, chair, Ed Bice, Louise Cole, Al Golato and Calvin Dorn. The changes (*in italics and underlined*) bring it in compliance with the national NARFE constitution. The committee followed both national NARFE's guidelines and responses to specific questions.

We advise all members to read it in preparation for voting to accept or reject it at the September 17 general membership meeting.

NOTE: The chapter's updated *by-laws* will be included with the June newsletter. That document also was reworked in accordance with national's guidelines and advice and will be offered for a vote at the September meeting too.

INSTALLATION LUNCHEON

Kaufmann's Restaurant
Thursday, 18 June 2009

Social 11:30 Lunch 12:00 Ceremony 1:00

MENU: Select one Platter at Sign Up:

Broiled Tilapia
Grilled Chicken Breast
Tomato Stuffed with Shrimp Salad
Broiled Crab Cake
Black Angus Medium Prime Rib
Stuffed Shrimp
Fried Shrimp
BBQ Shrimp
Chef's Salad

Plus baked potato, vegetable, dessert,
sodas, coffee, or tea

CASH BAR AVAILABLE

COST (includes tax and tip): \$22.75
(\$22.50 2 years ago)

Make checks to NARFE CHAPTER 1747
Sign up at May meeting or call:
BARBARA WHEATLEY - 301-352-6241

MEAL SELECTIONS AND NUMBER OF
GUESTS ARE REQUIRED 7 DAYS PRIOR
TO THE LUNCHEON, SO

OUR DEADLINE IS **10 JUNE**

No refunds or changes after that date.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ed Bice

You Won't Be Disappointed. . .

In the April issue of the NARFE magazine (page 47) is a letter written by a NARFE member who never attended a NARFE meeting for 15 years. Then he retired, moved to Massachusetts, and has attended three chapter meetings there. He concluded his letter with these words: "To those who complain about chapter dues, attend a meeting. You will not be disappointed. I never had a problem with chapter dues, and after seeing what a chapter has to offer, I was right."

I hope the above words will inspire members who do not attend our meetings to be present at our informative meetings. Members who regularly attend them tell me how much they enjoy them.

May and June are the best times of the year to be a participant in Chapter 1747 and community activities. There's the Crofton Armed Forces Day Parade on Saturday, May 2; the Bowie Memorial Day Parade on Saturday, May 23; Bowiefest on Saturday, June 6 and our Installation of Officers' Luncheon, Thursday, June 18.

In closing, a final thought. The world is full of supporters, but the decision-makers are the activists. Come to our chapter meetings, be a participant in the above community events, hold a chapter office, be on a chapter committee. I guarantee that you will not be disappointed.

OFFICER NOMINATIONS FOR MAY

The Nominations Committee has, as of this date, received four nominees: Dorothy Campbell for President, Lillie Watson for Secretary, Bob Cullen for Treasurer and Louise Cole for Assistant Treasurer. We still need members to fill the remaining two positions: 1st Vice-President and 2nd Vice-President. Keep in mind that serving as a chapter officer does require attending an executive board meeting every month, but, more importantly, it affords interested NARFE members the rewarding opportunity to make the necessary decisions that keep the chapter functioning.

Voting will take place at the May 21 general membership meeting. Nominations from the floor also will be taken at that meeting for all six officers. Be aware that you may nominate yourself or someone else for any position.

Please be sure to attend this important meeting. If you need any more information about the positions or the election process, contact Ed Bice, Nominations Committee chair.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Joseph Young

2010 Budget

Before passing their fiscal 2010 budget resolution on April 2, 2009, the House of Representatives defeated a substitute amendment offered by Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI) which would have cut entitlements, such as Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid by \$1.3 trillion over ten years and would have included a reduction of

\$10.263 billion in federal civil service retirement and health benefits. The Ryan substitute amendment was defeated 137 to 293.

The Senate adopted a similar, but not identical, budget resolution (S. Con. Res. 13) setting the stage for a House-Senate Conference Committee after the Easter/Passover recess (April 5 – 18).

FERS: SICK LEAVE AND TSP

On April 1, 2009, the House approved H.R. 1804, legislation which would allow Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) employees to credit their unused sick leave toward their retirement and would make certain improvements to the federal Thrift Savings Plan (TSP).

The bill would automatically enroll newly hired federal employees in the TSP and make them eligible to receive an immediate matching contribution from their employing agency.

Moreover, the measure would widen TSP's offered plans to include a "Roth" option like

many private employers do in 401 (k) plans. Under a "Roth" option, contributions are after taxes have been paid. Roth plan principal and earnings can be withdrawn tax free. House passage of this legislation is a victory for federal workers, but it still must be approved by the Senate where the NARFE Legislative Department is already promoting it.



Mr. John Ferguson Esq. of Main Street Settlements speaks at our April meeting.

STATE LEGISLATION

Ed Bice

The 2009 session of the Maryland General Assembly has ended. There is no good news to report as our top three priorities received no favorable action.

I encourage members to attend our General Membership Meeting on May 21st when state legislators from Districts 23 and 33 have been invited to review the recently concluded session. Each legislator will be given time for remarks, followed by a question and answer session -- and I hope you will be there to ask why our priorities were not addressed again.

MEMBERSHIP

Dorothy Campbell

One Step Forward, Two Steps Backwards

As you can see, there are 12 names of new members below on our "welcome list." Eleven are members recruited by national NARFE, and one is a "transfer" from another chapter. In addition,

three previously dropped chapter members requested reinstatement.

While those numbers sound great, they're still very troubling. First, the fact that national NARFE recruited all 12 new members shows that Chapter 1747 didn't sign up anyone in the past month. But, more importantly, the monthly membership report that provided the good news above also indicated that national NARFE dropped nine members for non-payment of dues and one member voluntarily canceled his membership. And, even worse, the national office had to send "second notice reminders" to 26 chapter members (18 retirees and 8 active members) stating they would be dropped shortly if they didn't respond to that mailing.

Since this pattern regularly occurs, membership in 1747, as well as in the majority of chapters, seems to be "taking one step forward and two steps backwards." Obviously, we can't keep NARFE solvent or strong that way.

What can chapter members do? We can, and must, all actively recruit: spouses, family members, friends, neighbors, former coworkers — both retirees and those still working. Pick up membership forms at meetings or contact me (see back page). Sign up new members. Let's go forward and make our organization bigger and better and more powerful.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Audrey Burwell	Patricia J. Lunenfeld
Verlette Goodman	Paula McLain
Eunice C. Huff	James W. Montgomery
Mary Kirk	Mary Ann Ruth
Kenneth W. Kraay	Karl Stehmer
Mary Lloyd	Lawrence Winingar

CHAPTER 1747 TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on: March 1, 2009	\$2969.51
Receipts:	408.19
Disbursements:	173.00
Balance on: March 31, 2009	\$3204.70

DAYS TO REMEMBER

May 3–6 – Maryland NARFE Convention (State)
 May 10 – Mother's Day
 May 16 – Armed Forces Day
 May 25 – Memorial Day (observed)

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, and the name of your nominee.

- President _____
- 1st Vice President _____
- 2nd Vice President _____
- Secretary _____
- Treasurer _____
- 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 the May 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.

Greater Bowie-Crofton Area NARFE News

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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	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	

May 21: Review of the 2009 General Assembly Session.

June 17: Installation Luncheon

Deadline for June luncheon is June 10.