



NARFE NEWSLETTER

GREATER BOWIE-CROFTON AREA CHAPTER 1747

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

Volume 29, No. 10

www.NARFE1747.org

June 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.* June 18, Installation Luncheon
- ❖ *General Meeting.* September 17, Membership vote on acceptance of new by-laws and constitution, program to be announced.

TO ALL MEMBERS

Revised Chapter By-Laws

Enclosed with this newsletter is an updated version of our chapter's by-laws as reworked by the Constitution Committee. The changes bring it in compliance with the National NARFE constitution/by-laws. We advise all members to read it in preparation for voting to accept or reject it and the constitution at the September 17 general membership meeting.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ed Bice

Crofton Armed Forces Day Parade.

Many thanks to Fran Park, Frances Steburg, Marjorie Laios, Bev Keen, Shirley DeJavanne, Donna Minner, Dorothy Bice, Jerry Kursban, Bill Park, and Steve Malley for their efforts. Steve and Jerry were first time participants.

Maryland Federation Convention.

The 39th Biennial Convention of the Maryland Federation was held at Ocean City from May 3–6. Chapter 1747 was represented by President Ed Bice and NARFE member Chiquitta Thomas.

The results of the election were: President, Ted Jenson (Chapter 409 Frederick); First Vice President, Legislation, Evelyn Kirby (Chapter 1372 Tidewater); Second Vice President, Membership, Barry Grier (Chapter 1466 Calvert County); Secretary, Jeanette Green (Chapter 126 Western Charles/Indian Head); and Treasurer, Tom Diehl (Chapter 581 Gaithersburg). Congratulations to our new leadership.

The delegates heard remarks from Representative Frank Kratovil, Jr. (MD 1st Congressional District); a keynote address by John McDonough, Maryland Secretary of State; and a briefing from Charley Saylor, Region II Field Vice President.

Besides the various committee reports, there were two outstanding workshops on legislative activities and membership.

Everyone attending agreed this was an outstanding convention.

PROPOSED DUES CHANGES

The National Executive Board is proposing to change the NARFE dues structure. They, and some of the members, believe that we could improve recruitment and have better membership retention if there were a single fee that included both National and Chapter dues. There will be a referendum sent to the Chapter in September 2009 requesting that the

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Chapters vote on the proposal. The resulting vote will be due by December 2009. The May NARFE Magazine discussed this issue in President Margaret Baptiste's column on page 6.

1. The proposal is to have a \$40.00 per year dues that covers everything as far as National is concerned. The Chapters would receive \$9.00 (instead of the current \$5.00), the Maryland Federation would receive \$4 (instead of the current \$2.90 or 20 percent of the 29 National dues).

2. The multi-year dues structure for National for retirees would be dropped.

3. Active employees who are currently under the reduced dues structure would continue their plan until they retire. After they retire, they would go to the \$40 per year plan. New active employees would join under the \$40.00-per-year plan.

4. Retired Dues Withholding members would have their withholding from their annuity increased to \$34.80 per year (\$2.90 per month) instead of the current \$29.52 per year (\$2.46 per month).

5. National Life Members who are NOT Chapter Life members would be billed for the \$9.00/year chapter dues (instead of the current \$5).

6. It is not known how Chapter Life Members who are NOT National Life Members would be treated.

See the Web site, www.narfe.org, for more details. Sign in as a NARFE member with your last name and membership number. (Your membership number can be found on the label of NARFE's magazine.) Near the bottom of the page, click on "Referendum on NARFE Dues, Read More".

Farewell For Now

This issue marks my last newsletter article as President of Chapter 1747. I have served as your president since October 1, 2004 and am the longest servicing leader in our Chapter history.

New leadership will be in place on July 1, 2009. I hope you give them your utmost support. I wish them great success. I thank you for your support during my term.

Almost everyone knows what makes a great chapter. The next President must inspire the membership with the desire to do the things necessary to have a great chapter.

The guiding principle must and always should be support for NARFE. NARFE is the only organization

that exists solely to protect the interests of active and retired federal workers now and the future

I wish all good luck and exceptional health in the future.

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Joseph Young

Consumer Price Index

The Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) increased in April for the fourth consecutive month. The CPI-W declined in each of the last five months of 2008. The April increase is 0.3 percent. Released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics on May 15, the CPI-W for April is 207.925. For purposes of calculating the next cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), the index is now 3.5 percent LOWER than the 2008 third quarter average base index of 215.5.

Benefits awarded under the Federal Employees Compensation Act (FECA) to individuals suffering work-related injuries or illnesses, are adjusted according to each calendar year's percentage change in the CPI-W. April's index, 207.925, is 1.5 percent higher than the December index, 204.813. May consumer price indices will be released on Wednesday, June 17, 2009.

Social Security and Medicare Trustees Report

On May 12, 2009, the Social Security and Medicare trustees told lawmakers in their annual report to Congress that Medicare "Part A", the fund financed through payroll taxes which pays the hospital bills for about 40 million older and disabled Americans, is expected to become insolvent in 2017, two years earlier than was estimated last year. The report also stated that the Social Security trust fund will only pay benefits 75 cents on the dollar starting in 2037, four years sooner than projected.

While the report puts added pressure on policymakers to cut spending in all entitlement programs, including federal civilian retirement, comprehensive reform of Social Security would at least provide a legislative vehicle in which to attach proposals to repeal or reform the Social Security Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provisions (WEP). Indeed, prior to the report's release, House Majority Leader, Steny Hoyer (D-MD), Senate Majority Whip, Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) held tentative talks on

moving a Social Security reform bill as early as this fall if a bipartisan consensus emerges. In anticipation of such a consensus, NARFE members must tell their own Representatives and Senators that it is imperative to address the unfair and arbitrary GPO and WEP in legislation which overhauls Social Security. (The gateway to more information including both a summary and the full report is <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/OACT/TR/2009/>)

STATE LEGISLATION

Ed Bice

The State Legislative Committee (SLC) of the Maryland Federation has scheduled meetings during the summer months. The SLC had a table at the recent Federation Convention where contributions were solicited for MD PAC. Our efforts were successful as 45 individual contributions were received for a total of \$877.00.

MEMBERSHIP

Dorothy Campbell

Last month I noted that Chapter 1747's membership is constantly changing — and that although we make gains, they often do not offset our losses. This month is no different; our five new members and five reinstatements do not equal the 10 dropped members (dropped for non-payment of dues) and one member who passed away. So I repeat once again: We must all become recruiters. We must all try to make our chapter's gains far outweigh our losses.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Floyd H. Holmgrain
Beverly R. Johnson
Angelita Kelly

Michael C. Preloh
Julia R. Raucheisen

CONDOLENCES

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

Mary P. DeMaio

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 ❖ Chef's Salad

Grilled Chicken Breast

Tomato Stuffed with Shrimp Salad

Black Angus Medium Prime Rib

Broiled Crab Cake ❖ Stuffed Shrimp

Fried Shrimp ❖ BBQ Shrimp

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

CASH BAR AVAILABLE

COST (includes tax and tip): \$22.75

Make checks to NARFE CHAPTER 1747

Sign up at May meeting or call:

BARBARA WHEATLEY - 301-352-6241

No refunds or changes after June 10.

**Got a bright Idea for the Government?
Send it there the easy way!**

President Obama: www.whitehouse.gov.

Senators: www.senate.gov

Representatives: www.house.gov

DAYS TO REMEMBER

June 14 – Flag Day

June 18 – Installation Luncheon

June 21 – Father's Day

Sept. 17 – First General Meeting, 2009-2010

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
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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
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	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	

June 17: Installation Luncheon
September 17: Welcome Back
(first general meeting of 2009–2010)