



NARFE NEWSLETTER

GREATER BOWIE-CROFTON AREA

CHAPTER 1747

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

Volume 30, No. 1

www.NARFE1747.org

September 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.* September 17, Joseph Hensley Assistant Supervisor of Assessments, Prince George's County.
- ❖ *General Meeting.* Saturday, 17 October from 10:00 AM until 12:00 noon at Bowie City Hall. Insurance representatives and Lions Club Volunteers. Flu shots will **NOT** be given this year.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dorothy Campbell

Happy New NARFE Year!

Welcome back to Chapter 1747's new year (our years run from September through June). It's really a new year for all of us — for you, the members as well as your officers (more later on them). Your officers are looking forward to our regular membership meetings after the July and August break (for members only). And our September 17 meeting will be really special: first, we'll vote on the proposed chapter constitution and by-laws that you received with your

May and June issues of the newsletter. Then our special guest will be Joseph Hensley from Prince George's County, who will tell us all we need to know about tax assessments. Mark your calendar now so that you won't miss this important meeting.

I really want to stress the importance of voting on the constitution and by-laws. They are the rules and regulations (as former federal employees you surely remember "rules and regs") for how our chapter operates; they're the guidelines we follow. And although they're tailored to our chapter, they follow the pattern of our national and federation documents. They cannot be changed except by the vote of the membership at a chapter meeting. Voting on an organization's constitution and by-laws is one of the most important responsibilities you have as a member of an organization.

Executive Board Meetings: Great Results

Speaking of voting brings me to another important thing that happened during your summer break from NARFE meetings. Notice I said "your" break; your elected officers and some committee chairs continued to meet as the chapter's executive board dur-



The 2009–2011 Executive Board is sworn in at the Installation Luncheon. *From left:* Louise Cole, Assistant Treasurer; Bob Cullen, Treasurer; Lillie Watson, Secretary; Howard Dobson, First Vice President; and Dorothy Campbell, President.

Continued on page 2

ing July and August, and we had two very productive meetings. In addition, some of us met at other, smaller and highly productive meetings.

You may recall that after the May 21 election of officers, the position of 1st vice president was vacant. But I'm really pleased now to announce that Howard Dobson, who had been elected 2nd vice president at that meeting, agreed to move up to 1st vice president and former 2nd vice president Barbara Wheatley agreed, at my request, to return to her former position. Both were duly installed in those positions at our August executive board meeting — and I'm very happy to announce that our officer complement will once again be operating at full strength. So, congratulations, Howard, and welcome back, Barbara.

By the way, Howard will be responsible for arranging the chapter's programs; Barbara will assist him and will take on the duties of Public Relations officer. And, I'm happy to add that all of our committee chairs have agreed to continue doing the work they've done so capably in the past (see updated list on back page).

Last, but not least, I wish to thank those who elected me president. I look forward to working with all members and the elected and appointed officers to make our chapter even bigger, better and stronger than it is now. I look forward to our new year: to seeing more members at regular membership meetings and our special functions (our October Health Plan Open Season meeting, our December Holiday luncheon and our June 2010 picnic). I look forward to seeing increased participation in our community projects: parades, information tables at city functions, etc. And I wish you a happy new NARFE year — and see you in September!

PROGRAMS

Howard Dobson

On September 17, Mr. Joseph Hensley, from the Prince George's County Office of Taxation will review tax assessments, appeal procedures, and tax credits.

On Saturday, October 17, we will hold our health fair in the multipurpose room at Bowie City Hall from 10:00 AM until 12:00 noon. Representatives from health insurance companies and the Bowie Lions Club will be available. We will **NOT** provide flu shots this year.

We hope to have the full calendar of program speakers and events available to members in the October newsletter.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Joseph Young

Plan to Cut Earned Federal Civilian Retirement Annuities

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) President Margaret L. Baptiste denounced proposals made by House Republican leaders to reduce the retirement annuities of federal workers and require them to work longer to receive their full earned annuity.

The proposals, set forth in a policy agenda released on June 4 by Minority Leader John Boehner (R-OH) and Minority Whip Eric Cantor (R-VA), recommend that the federal civilian annuity calculation be based on the highest five years of salary instead of the highest three years. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that "the average new Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) retiree would receive about \$1,250 less in 2008 and \$6,530 less over five years than under current law."

In addition, the Boehner/Cantor paper recommends that federal civilian employees not be afforded their earned annuity until they reach age 62, under any circumstance. Currently, employees can retire at age 55 if they have 30 or more years of service or at age 60 if they have 20 or more years of service. Federal public safety employees are required to retire by age 57 and air traffic controllers must retire by age 56.

"Not only would these proposals dishonor the government's obligations to its workers, but it also makes public service a much harder sell to the highly talented and skilled individuals needed to take on the challenges of recovering from an unparalleled economic upheaval, fighting two wars and defending the homeland," Baptiste said. "The federal government should serve as a model to other employers and should not be a part of the mindless race to the bottom, which has contributed to the growing number of employees without adequate retirement savings or health insurance."

Baptiste concluded, "Federal workers and annuitants have dedicated their careers and continue to give so much for our nation and our ideals. NARFE urges the Congress not to demean their public service by reducing the retirement and health benefits that are rightfully theirs."

I encourage all future and current federal retirees to voice their objections to the proposals set forth by Minority Leader John Boehner (R-OH) and Minority

Whip Eric Cantor (R-VA) to your Federal Legislators via telephone or e-mail. We must act now to protect our hard won benefits.

Health Care Position

NARFE has taken NO position on the health care reform legislation currently receiving serious consideration in the House and the Senate. That's because the status of the leading bills is extremely fluid and is subject to change. Neither the House nor the Senate bills would open the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) to non-federal civilians nor would FEHBP be offered as the proposed public health care plan. More in-depth analysis on the legislation will appear in the September NARFE magazine and will be sent to NARFE members by e-mail via GEMS.

Many NARFE members have contacted the Legislative Department regarding e-mails they have received which make various claims about the health care reform bills. NARFE is advising members to carefully scrutinize such messages because some of them contain misleading or false information. For NARFE members who are interested in receiving accurate, nonpartisan analysis about the major health care reform bills, including the Senate Finance Committee, Senate Health, Education, Labor and Education (HELP) Committee and the House Tri-Committee proposals, visit the Kaiser Family Foundation side-by-side bill comparison web site at: <http://www.kff.org/healthreform/sidebyside.cfm>. The Kaiser Foundation is not associated with Kaiser Permanente or Kaiser Industries.

CHAPTER 1747 TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on: July 1, 2009	\$3872.76
Receipts:	274.94
Disbursements:	0.00
Balance on: July 31, 2009	\$4247.70

DAYS TO REMEMBER

- September 7 – Labor Day
- September 11 – Patriot Day
- September 18 – Rosh Hashanah (begins at sundown)
- September 27 – Yom Kippur (begins at sundown)

CONDOLENCES

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

Former Chapter Officer **Mayer Weinblatt**

HELP WANTED!

Volunteer(s) urgently needed, once monthly, to pick up the Chapter's newsletter at Crofton Printing, place seals and pre-printed address labels on each copy, sort them by zip code, and deliver them to the Postal Service's Bulk Mail Center in District Heights. Great opportunity for former/active postal employee(s) to help their NARFE chapter, but any volunteer(s) will be appreciated. To volunteer or for more information, contact Dorothy Campbell or any officer.



A sample of Chapter 1747 activities in the past two years, ranging from speakers to awards to the June picnic.

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	Dorothy Campbell	301-464-6372	Dcbowie@aol.com
1st Vice President	Howard Dobson	301-809-1645	hrd789@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	VACANT		
	Jessica Forman	843-347-9287	jessicaforman@yahoo.com
Programs	Howard Dobson	301-809-1645	hrd789@aol.com
Public Relations	Barbara Wheatley	301-352-6241	wheatley0@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	

September 17: Joseph Hanley on Assessments

(First general meeting of 2009–2010)

SATURDAY, October 17: Health Fair

10:00 AM to Noon, Bowie City Hall