



# NARFE NEWSLETTER

## GREATER BOWIE-CROFTON AREA

### CHAPTER 1747

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

Volume 30, No. 3

www.NARFE1747.org

November 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.* Thursday, November 19, Bowie Gymnasium. Speaker, Ruth McDonald, from US Congressman Hoyer's Office on Healthcare Legislation.
- ❖ *General Meeting.* Thursday, December 17, Nautilus Diner. Holiday Luncheon.
- ❖ *General Meeting.* Thursday, January 21. Speaker, Diane Polangin, Tax Tips.

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Dorothy Campbell*

#### Bowie Chosen for 2011 MD Convention

On Tuesday, October 6, the Maryland Federation of Chapters Executive Board broke with tradition and selected Bowie's Comfort Inn to be the site for the Federation's May 2011 convention. At a minimum, the last 7-8 biennial conventions have been held in Ocean City. However, in recent years, attendance at them has been dropping due to hotel and meal costs, travel time, etc.

The venue shift to Bowie will give to a great many Maryland chapter officers and members the opportunity to commute to the convention on a daily basis, thus eliminating hotel-room costs. This includes those who

live in Prince George's, Montgomery, Howard, Charles, and Anne Arundel as well as some other nearby counties. Chapter 1747 members in Bowie, Crofton, Mitchellville, Odenton and Gambrills should have no problem attending the convention and, for the first time, I assume that we could have our full allotment of delegates at the business sessions, luncheons, the banquet, and other social events.

#### An Honor, but Lots of Work Too...

To ensure a successful convention, Chapter 1747 officers and members will need to be involved in all aspects of the event. Your elected officers consider it an honor and look forward to the opportunity to show that our Chapter is fully capable of putting on as good a convention as those held in Ocean City. We anticipate that a great many of our members will serve on the variety of convention committees needed to make the convention run smoothly and efficiently. Furthermore, because even the preliminary convention arrangements are not yet complete, it is still possible that other nearby chapters will join us as co-hosts and provide convention workers as well.

This will be an exciting experience for Chapter 1747, and I am confident that with your assistance the 2011 convention will be memorable and successful. While it is still 18 months away, the detailed convention planning

*Continued on page 2*

#### Temporary Meeting Site Change

In November, we will meet at the Bowie Gymnasium, located at the corner of Health Center and Northview Drives. This change is ONLY for the November meeting, although construction at Bowie City Hall may require other changes from time to time. Check the newsletter each month for location.

will begin soon. Therefore, anyone interested in working on one of the many convention committees should let me know so that I can add your name to the volunteer list which I have already begun to compile.

### City Hall Meeting Site: Check Monthly for Possible Changes

Construction has begun on Bowie's new City Hall, with its opening some 12–18 months from now. Therefore, the site of our regular membership meetings might change at any time. So please check out our newsletter, our website, and/or City Hall (301-262-6200) before attending a meeting. When City Hall is not available, we will probably meet at the Bowie Gymnasium at Health Center Drive and Northview Drive—the site for our November 19 meeting.

## FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Joseph Young

President Obama said that while the Finance Committee package is “not perfect,” its passage marks a critical milestone, “We are now closer than ever before to passing health reform. But we’re not there yet...now’s the time to dig in and work even harder to get this done.”

The difficult task of reconciling the Senate Finance Committee’s package with the five congressional committee’s packages begins in the weeks and months to come.

Groups from across the political and social spectrum are racing to ensure that their special interest or concerns are addressed in the final bill. Labor unions expressed dissatisfaction that the Senate Finance Committee package lacks a government run insurance plan to compete with private insurers. Insurance companies are warning legislators that new regulations on their industry could cause premiums to increase. Major business and labor groups are opposed to a tax on high cost insurance policies, which could increase health care expenses for employers and workers.

### Re-Employed Annuitant and FERS Sick Leave Bills

NARFE and allied organizations representing current and retired federal employees won major victories as part of the fiscal year 2010 Defense Authorization Conference Report (111–166). Passed on October 8, 2009 by the House, the legislation will allow federal

agencies to re-employ federal retirees on a limited, part-time basis without offset of annuity; permit Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) workers to initially credit half, and later all, of their unused sick leave toward retirement; and provide for retirement equity for Federal employees in Hawaii, Alaska and the U.S. Territories. Senate approval is expected shortly.

NARFE President Margaret L. Baptiste said, “During the past several years, NARFE has played a leading role, along with other federal and postal employee organizations, in overcoming several obstacles to pass these needed civil service improvements. For example, absent NARFE’s persistence, bipartisan legislation (S. 629) sponsored by Senators **Susan Collins**, R-ME, **Herb Kohl**, D-WI, and **George Voinovich**, R-OH, to allow federal retirees to be re-employed by the government would not have been included in the final Defense bill. Many Federal retirees continue to make critical contributions to our safety and well-being during this time of national need and when workforce shortages have deprived some agencies of employees with critical and specialized skills. This is a victory for active and retired federal employees.”

## PROGRAMS

Howard Dobson

On Saturday, October 17, we held our health fair in the multipurpose room at Bowie City Hall from 10:00AM until 12:00 noon. About fifty people attended. Representatives from health insurance companies reviewed program changes for 2010. Bowie Lions Club volunteers provided vision and hearing tests.

Ms. Ruth McDonald will speak at our November 19 meeting. She is Congressman Hoyer’s lead person on healthcare law and legislation. *Please note that this meeting will take place in rooms 1 and 2 of the City of Bowie Gymnasium, located at 4100 Northview Drive.*

December 17 is the date for our Holiday Luncheon; it will be held at the Nautilus Diner. Information on the luncheon will be available at our November meeting and in the December newsletter.

Ms. Diane Polangin will speak about income tax issues at our January 21, 2010 meeting.

## CHAPTER 1747 TREASURER’S REPORT

Balance on: September 1, 2009	\$3634.40
Receipts:	323.01
Disbursements:	219.60
Balance on: September 30, 2009	\$3737.81

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

For the first time in a long time, all new members listed here are retirees and all but one of them were recruited by the chapter/chapter members. To those who recruited them—keep up the good work! And for a welcome change, this month we gained more new members than we lost for non-payment of dues. Let's keep this momentum going!

To the new members: We're looking forward to seeing you at our meetings. Check our newsletter and/or our website ([www.NARFE1747.com](http://www.NARFE1747.com)) regularly for meeting information as well as the latest on federal and state legislation that applies to you and your family.

**Frederick G. Beck**  
**Brian Burch**  
**Donald Douglas**  
**Carol Grohman**

**Angela N. Haggins**  
**Charles Potok**  
**Darrel Williams**

## CONDOLENCES

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

**Russell W. Kay**

## Military Appreciation Monday

On Monday, November 16, the DAV and Golden Corral Restaurants will partner for Military Appreciation Day. That's their day to welcome the nation's veterans and active duty military men and women to a free buffet dinner and drink, and lots of camaraderie. The appreciation event will take place at all Golden Corral restaurants between 5:00 and 9:00PM. It's also the restaurant's way of saying "Thank You" to our nation's military vets and active duty military.

The nearest Golden Corral restaurants are in Largo, Waldorf, Glen Burnie and Baltimore; more information and driving directions for them, plus more on Military Appreciation Monday, can be found on the web at [goldencorral.com](http://goldencorral.com).

## Dues Referendum Vote Deadline is December 3

Reminder: A portion of the November 19 general membership meeting will be get aside for discussion of the NARFE Dues Referendum. At that meeting, a ballot box will be available for members who wish to vote for or against the proposed increase in NARFE dues. Ballot forms may also be mailed to NARFE Chapter 1747, PO Box 504, Bowie, MD 20718; mailed ballots must be in the post office box by 9:00 a.m. on December 3, 2009.

Ballots can be found in the October issue of the Chapter 1747 newsletter, as well as on page 35 in the August issue of NARFE magazine.

## DAYS TO REMEMBER

November 1 – Daylight Savings Time ends

November 3 – Election Day

November 11 – Veterans Day

November 25 – Thanksgiving

Any Day – Buy a NARFE Gift Membership for a friend or family member.

## 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.

## 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. 30, No. 3

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	Lillie Watson	301-262-5926	lwatson16@hotmail.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 Events	Ed Bice (Bowie)	301-464-3748	DE3637@verizon.net
	Louise Cole (Odenton)	410-672-6528	col9135@aol.com
	Donna Minner (Crofton)	410-721-9799	
Meeting Sign-In/Greeter	Mary Catloth	301-390-2206	mcatloth@aol.com
NARFE-Net Coordinator	Howard (Flash) Gordon	301-464-2745	flash@acm.org
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 Galliant	301-262-7261	
	Tom Page	301-262-3418	

Thursday, November 19, 2009: (For this meeting ONLY)

City Gymnasium

Healthcare Legislation