



NARFE NEWSLETTER

GREATER BOWIE-CROFTON AREA

CHAPTER 1747

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

Volume 30, No. 4

www.NARFE1747.org

December 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

- ❖ *Holiday Luncheon.* Thursday, December 17. We will celebrate the holidays at the Nautilus Diner again this year. The cost is \$20.75 per person and the menu is the same as last year (See page 3.).
- ❖ *General Meeting.* Thursday, January 21. Speaker, Diane Polangin, Tax Tips.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dorothy Campbell

Happy Holidays!

On behalf of your officers, I wish to convey best wishes to all chapter members and their families for a most joyous holiday season and a happy and healthy new year. And I wish to add my personal thanks to our chapter's members and officers whose ongoing and dedicated participation have kept our chapter alive and well. At a time when other chapters are unable to function due to their inability to get people to become officers or attend meetings, we have a viable chapter.

While our chapter membership hasn't increased, we have grown in the areas of participation and stature. The proof lies in increased attendance at membership meetings and in the numbers of those who play an active role in our events. Our stature was certainly marked by the recent vote of the Maryland Federation of Chapters' Executive Board to hold the 2011 Federation Convention in Bowie at the Comfort Inn. The Federation's 2010 mini-convention will take place there as well.

Special Thanks Are in Order

Thanks to Barbara Wheatley and her sister Marguerite, Lillie Watson and Dorothy Bice for joining me to get the September newsletter labeled and sealed, and Barbara, Dorothy and Ed

Bice, who did the same for the October issue. In November, the crew included Barbara, Marguerite, Dorothy and Ed. And thanks to Louise Cole for delivering the newsletters to the post office each month. *If any others want to share in the fun, it only takes two hours.*

Thanks to Howard Dobson who joined me at the Chapter's recruitment table at the Odenton Fair on October 3. We talked to prospective chapter members, networked with other organizations, enjoyed entertainment and Odenton provided all the hot dogs/iced tea/other goodies we could eat. *See, you, as well as the chapter, can benefit from volunteering. . . .*

Thanks also to Ed, Howard, and Al Golato for representing our Chapter on November 11 at Bowie's annual ceremony to honor our nation's veterans.

And thanks to those at the September meeting who unanimously approved our updated/revised Chapter Constitution/By-Laws. *Note:* The new document is being sent to national NARFE for its approval; when approved it will be posted on our website and printed copies will be available to members upon request.

Learn to Be an Officer

Coming up is a special opportunity to learn more about NARFE and leadership. On March 23–24, 2010 is Symposium II, a regional conference in Gettysburg, PA which offers each participant their choice of five leadership training seminars (from 10 topics) and an opportunity to network with other chapter members in our 5-state region. Registration is \$65; this includes lunch, dinner and breakfast buffets. The site is the Eisenhower Hotel; rooms are \$78, single and \$88 double, plus PA tax. *Note:* Chapter 1747 will pay the registration fee for all who attend, and we hope to carpool. Anyone interested should contact me.

Also contact me if you are willing to donate 2–3 hours a month to our chapter—a donation that will be greatly appreciated. I can assure you that whatever time you give will be both a

Continued on page 2

satisfying experience for you as well as an easy way to assist the organization you already support financially. Think about it, and while making your new year resolutions, make one to become more involved in NARFE.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Joseph Young

Health-Care Bill

The House Democrats and one Republican achieved an unprecedented milestone by passing a health-care reform bill. In a rare Saturday session held November 7, 2009, the House narrowly passed a trillion dollar health-care package that seeks to reform private health-care insurance practices and guarantee coverage to almost every American. The vote on H.R. 3962 was 220–215. Thirty-nine Democrats, mostly from the party’s conservative ranks, did not vote for passage of the bill. However, one Republican did vote for the bill, Rep. Anh “Joseph” Cao of Louisiana, who represents the Democratic-leaning district of New Orleans. Rep. Cao had been the target of a last minute White House lobbying campaign. Rep. Cao disappointed GOP House leaders who had predicted their members would unanimously oppose the bill.

Not since the passage of Medicare and Medicaid in 1965 has a body of Congress approved expansion of health-care coverage on such a scale. Attention now shifts to the Senate, where debate on health-care reform could run until the end of the year. Majority Leader Harry M. Reid (D-Nev.) hoped to bring a measure to the floor before Thanksgiving.

Under this legislation federal employees and annuitants will be able to keep the insurance in the system they have now and nothing in the bill specifically impacts Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP). However, any comprehensive plan that changes insurance law, provider financing, taxation policy and health infrastructure, will have some ramifications on how FEHBP operates in the larger health system.

National Defense Authorization Act

On October 28, 2009, President Obama signed the Conference Report on the fiscal year 2010 National Defense Authorization Act (H.R. 2647, now P.L. 111-84). During the past several years, NARFE has played a leading role, in coalition with other federal and postal union and management organizations, in overcoming several obstacles to pass the needed civil service improvements included in the final Defense Authorization bill.

The new law does the following: Allows federal agencies to re-employ federal retirees on a limited, part-time basis without offset of annuity; permits Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) workers to initially credit half, and in 2014 all, of their

unused sick leave toward retirement; phases out the non-foreign cost-of-living adjustment system for federal employees in Hawaii, Alaska and U.S. territories, replacing it over several years with locality pay, which can be counted for retirement purposes; and ends the Department of Defense’s pay-for-performance personnel system, the National Security Personnel System (NSPS), restoring employees to the federal General Schedule pay system.

STATE LEGISLATION

Ed Bice

Joe Young and Ed Bice attended a campaign fundraiser for Del. Jim Hubbard (District 21) on October 27 in Bowie. All members of the District 23 team were there as well as other delegates from Districts 14, 21, and 46. Chapter Presidents and members of the State Legislative Committee have gone to fundraisers during the summer and fall throughout the state. We lobbied the legislators for their support on two of our priority issues: equalizing tax exemptions for Maryland’s seniors and providing an annual tax credit for long-term care insurance premiums.

MDPAC supports our participation in these efforts. It is the federation’s political action committee which is in its second year. By going to selected fundraisers, we raise the presence of NARFE and our state legislative program. Also, we have another opportunity to lobby our own representatives as well as others at the same event. We will continue to support those officeholders who express their support of NARFE and our agenda at the state level.

If you would like to help get our message and legislative program to officeholders, you can show your support by making out a check in any amount payable to MDPAC and sending it to David Roseman, Treasurer, 6 Thorburn Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20878. In the memo line write 1747.

Give NARFE for the Holiday. . .

Sign up someone who hasn’t tried being a NARFE member—and pay their dues for a year.

Gift a friend with a year’s membership.



PROGRAMS

Howard Dobson

December 17 is our date for the Holiday Luncheon at the Nautilus Diner. The menu is the same as we enjoyed last year. Call Howard Dobson at 301-809-1645 to sign up as soon as possible.

Ms. Diane Polangin is our speaker on January 21, 2010, concerning income tax issues.

Ms. Karen Sank, from the Office for Emergency Preparedness, will give us helpful and practical advice for unforeseen situations on February 18, 2010.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Nate Barbour
Michael L. Bertran
Edward L. Colbert
Shirley M. Conrad
Joseph B. Cooper
Dwight A. Custis
Terri Miller
Carol Paterick

Eileen Pugh
Linda P. Qualls
Brian Richter
Mrs. G. Swanner
Gene Swanner
Patricia L. Sullivan
Sandra M. Williams
Kenneth E. Williams

Once again, October membership reports from national NARFE show us with more new members than “drops.” However, the report also shows 19 members whose dues are currently due, and if they don’t respond to their second dues notice, they’ll become next month’s “drops.”

So, if you’re reading this, and your dues are due, please send national a check. Or (for retirees only) make it easy on yourself by signing up for dues withholding (D-W). You will have no more checks to write and you will get a discount on your dues as well. For a D-W form, contact Dorothy Campbell or Lillie Watson.

CHAPTER 1747 TREASURER’S REPORT

Balance on: October 1, 2009	\$3737.81
Receipts:	361.34
Disbursements:	418.78
Balance on: October 31, 2009	\$3680.37

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Nautilus Diner Restaurant

1709 Transportation Blvd, Crofton, MD
(Corner of Routes 3 South and 424, Crofton, MD)

Thursday, December 17

Social: 11:30 AM, cash bar

Lunch: 12:00 noon

Choice of:

- ❖ **Corned Beef and Cabbage**
- ❖ **Meat Loaf with Potato and Vegetable**
- ❖ **Broiled Tilapia with Potato and Vegetable**
- ❖ **Half Chicken with Potato and Vegetable**

Plus:

- ❖ **Cup of Soup**
- ❖ **Coffee or Soda**
- ❖ **Strawberry Shortcake, Coconut Cake or Chocolate Cake**

Cost: \$20.75

(Make checks payable to NARFE Chapter 1747)

Reservations:

Call Howard Dobson at 301-809-1645

NO LATER THAN

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2009

DAYS TO REMEMBER

December 7 – National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

December 11 – Hanukkah (begins at sundown)

December 21 – First Day of Winter

December 25 – Christmas

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

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. 4

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	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 Galliard	301-262-7261	
	Tom Page	301-262-3418	
Sunshine	Marjorie Laios	301-262-1566	

Thursday, December 17

Nautilus Diner ❖ Holiday Luncheon

January 21 Tax Tips