



NARFE NEWSLETTER

GREATER BOWIE-CROFTON AREA

CHAPTER 1747

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

Volume 30, No. 7

www.NARFE1747.org

March 2010

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, March 18, NARFE National and MD-Federation leaders are guests. See box below.
- ❖ *General Meeting.* Thursday April 15, Mr. Bart Goldstein of Downsize Inc. will discuss managing, rearranging, and downsizing our possessions for a better use of space.
- ❖ *General Meeting.* Thursday, May 20, Representatives from the Maryland General Assembly will brief us on this year's legislative session.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dorothy Campbell

2010: A Busy Chapter Year

While last month's message urged greater membership participation in NARFE national, regional and federation (state) activities, this month I'm focusing on some chapter activities which will take place later this year — when our record-shattering snows have finally disappeared.

Several of these activities are community-based, and have made our Chapter more visible and much better known to a large number of residents, some of whom may be potential chapter members. The activities include Bowie's highly popular Memorial Day Parade and Crofton's Armed Forces Day Parade, both of which take place every May. At both parades red-, white- and

blue-clad chapter activists, proudly carrying the chapter's banner, will again lead our contingent which includes more walkers, a bike-rider and 2 – 3 gaily decorated cars.

In June, once again chapter representatives will staff an information/recruitment booth at Bowiefest, bringing our organization's name and message to the great number of people who attend this popular annual event. Each year we distribute NARFE information, and obtain names and addresses of eligible members, whom we later contact. This effort will be repeated on a smaller scale in Odenton in October, at that community's annual fair. In addition, we take part in any and all other activities we hear about in the communities covered by the chapter. And while we're primarily using these opportunities to publicize NARFE and recruit members, we're enhancing our prominence in the community. And don't just take my word that the parades and fairs are fun; those who have participated in them in past years have all enjoyed themselves and tend to volunteer again and again.

But, as always, these are activities that could use even more volunteers. As each of these events approaches, you'll find more information about it in our newsletter and on our website (which you can use to volunteer).

Legislative Voluntarism Literally Pays

Speaking of volunteering, the Maryland Federation is now reimbursing NARFE members who have paid the \$5 parking fee at the Navy Stadium in Annapolis when they attend legislative hearings in Annapolis! Under a new program, the Federation will refund the \$5 fee to those who submit their parking receipt. And

NARFE's National Vice President **Joseph A. Beaudoin**

and MD-Federation President **Ted Jensen**

will speak at our March 18 general meeting.

there's also a bonus for chapters; whenever three or more chapter members/guests attend a legislative hearing in Annapolis, the chapter receives \$35 for its treasury!

I'm happy to announce that our chapter gained \$35 last month because four members went to Annapolis on February 4! Then, because six chapter members attended a February 16 hearing, we gained another \$35. Thanks to these volunteers, our chapter was well represented in Annapolis and was even financially rewarded.

Chapter to Celebrate Its 30th Anniversary

On May 6, Chapter 1747 will turn 30. In honor of the occasion, the chapter's executive board is discussing marking this milestone either at our May 20 membership meeting or at our June 17 picnic. If you have any celebration suggestions, please let me know. One project being considered is a special recruitment contest; its goal would be to increase our membership by at least 30 new members before the end of May. The chapter member who signs up the most new members would win a prize that would be awarded at our September 16th meeting. More on this next month.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Joseph Young

Budgets and Medicare Premiums are once again the major legislative items of interest for NARFE, while both the House and Senate are in recess during the week of Presidents' Day.

Budget: Committees and Commission

Released February 1, 2010 the Obama Administration's budget blueprint for fiscal year (FY) 2011 did not recommend any reductions in the earned retirement and health security of federal annuitants and workers. The next steps are House and Senate budget resolutions which begin in the respective Budget Committees. Budget Committee members and chairs and congressional leaders will jockey among themselves while a new entrant, a Bipartisan Fiscal Commission, will soon be established by an Executive Order. C-SPAN and the Budget Committee web sites will provide gavel-to-gavel coverage. (A NARFE press release on the President's budget is available on NARFE web site (www.narfe.org at <http://www.narfe.org/departments/home/articles.cfm?ID=2014>).

Medicare Part B Premium Fairness

Federal, state and local government retirees who are not eligible to receive Social Security have seen their Medicare Part B premiums jump from \$96.40 per month to \$110.50 in 2010. Current law protects ("holds harmless") most other beneficiaries from a Part B rate hike when there is no Social Security cost of living adjustment (COLA). On

September 24th, the House passed H.R. 3631, the Medicare Premium Fairness Act, which would protect over 1 million federal, state and local government retirees from the Part B premium increase in 2010. The Senate needs to approve this needed legislation, too. If you are not among the 9,519 NARFE e-activists who have already used the Legislative Action Center, tell your Senators to pass H.R. 3631. NARFE President Margaret L. Baptiste urges each member to do that by sending them an e-mail through the Legislative Action Center (using the following link: <http://capwiz.com/narfe/issues/alert/?alertid=14260196>).

STATE LEGISLATION

Ed Bice

The Senate and House of the General Assembly have started bill hearings. Our two bills on the equalization issue are SB-190 and HB-658. Both are titled Senior Tax Relief Act. The hearing on HB-382 titled Income Tax-Credit for LTC Premiums was heard on February 4. SB-460 is the companion bill in the Senate. Five members of NARFE testified in support of HB-382. Delegate Krebs has introduced HB-238, HB-300 and HB-366 dealing with state property tax relief. These bills are supported by NARFE. The fourth priority issue is uniform durable power of attorney; SB-309 and HB-483 have been introduced on that subject.

You can help the State Legislative Committee by telling your senator and delegates that you support the above bills. They need to hear from you. It's an election year. You can help by going to Annapolis and being at the hearings to support NARFE priority issues. They need to see you. It's an election year.

The Maryland General Assembly web site address is mlis.state.md.us and has information about bills and status, hearing schedule, roster and list of committees and how to contact or find a legislator.

PROGRAMS

Howard Dobson

Tax preparer Diane Polangin discussed Federal Income Tax Issues at our January meeting. She provided explanatory materials and she answered questions. This information will assist us in filing our income tax returns.

We are honored that two NARFE leaders stepped in to replace our scheduled speaker who had to cancel his appearance. See the box on page 1 for more information about them.

Mr. Bart Goldstein of Downsize Inc. will give us tips on managing our possessions in a more efficient manner at our April meeting. He will advise us on living with less space if we decide to move or on finding more living space in our present homes.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

In a welcome change, the membership report for the month of January brought us more new members than members dropped for nonpayment of dues. National NARFE's report also listed two members who transferred from another chapter and five who paid-up their dues and were reinstated. Let's hope this upward trend continues.

A warm welcome to the following new members whom we hope to see at our membership meetings/other events:

Marie Saint Aubin
Philip Banks
Candace H. Beckett
Ernestine Bell
David A. Corbin
Frankie M. Gibson
Yvonne Goode
Melba Meador*

Claire Morgen
Elonia Moses
Helen E. Murphy
Virginia C. Murphy
Emmett T. Ridley
Beverly Wildoner
Clay Youmans
Stephen Young

*This new member was inadvertently listed in the last issue under a different name.

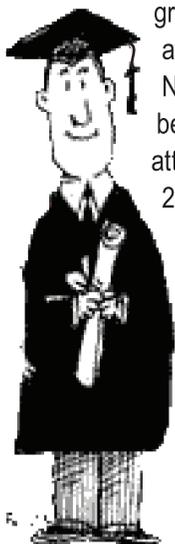
CHAPTER 1747 BUDGET REPORT

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Balance on: January 1, 2010 | \$3729.60 |
| Receipts: | 450.91 |
| Disbursements: | 279.31 |
| Balance on: January 31, 2010 | \$3901.20 |

2010 NARFE Scholarships

April 30, 2010 is the deadline for applications for NARFE's annual scholarship program for children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and stepchildren of all current NARFE members. Applicants must be high school seniors planning to attend college full time by fall/winter 2010. A total of 20 scholarships of \$1,000 each will be awarded.

For more information and an application, see page 47 of NARFE Magazine, download the application from the national website, www.narfe.org, or contact Chapter President Dorothy Campbell.



DAYS TO REMEMBER

March 14 – Daylight Saving Time begins
March 17 – St. Patrick's Day
March 28 – Palm Sunday
March 30 – Passover (begins at sundown)
March 31 – Last day for Medicare Part B General Enrollment

Attention Snowbirds and Movers

If you move, please advise us, via e-mail, phone, or change of address card, of your new address. And if you're one of the lucky ones who go south/elsewhere for the winter, please advise us of that address, even if it's only temporary. Because of Postal Service rules/regulations, chapter newsletters are returned to us, postage due, when you are "temporarily away." This also applies to the national NARFE magazine. Thank you.



Our February Speaker
Karen Sank talked to us
about what we needed
to do to be prepared for
most emergencies.



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. 7

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 | Vacant | | |
| 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 | 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 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 | |
| Sunshine | Marjorie Laios | 301-262-1566 | |

Joseph A. Beaudoin, NARFE National Vice President,
and Ted Jensen, MD-Federation President,
speak at the March General Membership Meeting