



NARFE NEWSLETTER

GREATER BOWIE-CROFTON AREA

CHAPTER 1747

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

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www.NARFE1747.org

April 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 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

Chapter 1747 Fares Well in MD-Fed Survey

In the March newsletter, I noted that May 6 is the 30th anniversary of the chapter, and we will be celebrating it with a recruitment contest; the goal of the contest is to sign up at least 30 new members between April 15 and May 31. (See details on page 3)

I believe that we can do this easily; we're a strong, viable chapter, and if anyone doubts this, we need only look at the results of a survey conducted recently by the Maryland Federation of Chapters. The survey was done to check on the health of the 34 chapters in the state and the questions elicited information on how well chapters functioned; specific questions dealt with officer and rank-and-file participation, programs and other activities, whether chapters had newsletters, the financial health of the chapter, and more.

I'm pleased to report that if marks had been given, our chapter would have gotten high ones. We would have scored points for fairly good attendance at meetings, a newsletter published 10 times a year, excellent programs, our political involvement, our sound financial footing, our three service officers and a service center, our public relations efforts, and having all officer/committee chair positions filled (except for one that recently became vacant). All chapter members, particularly those who regularly attend meetings and take part in other chapter activities, should be proud that we could

answer nearly every question positively; the only negative responses were to the question whether we had a fundraising committee (other than for Alzheimer's and NARFE-PAC/MD-PAC) and if we did specific training for new/potential officers. While our training is one-on-one (outgoing officer to their successor), we encourage both new and seasoned officers to attend training seminars held regularly by the MD Federation and other programs, such as the Leadership Symposium II. FYI: As a result of the survey, chapter health will be addressed at the Federation's Mini-convention to be held here in Bowie May 3-4 at the Comfort Inn.

Mark Your Calendar for the Mini-Convention

Because the Federation's May 3-4 mini-convention is easily accessible to Chapter 1747 members, please make every effort to attend all or some of it. Besides the regular business sessions that will focus on chapter health and discussing resolutions to be submitted to NARFE's national convention, luncheons on both days will feature special speakers. For more information about the mini-convention, contact me. (See page 4.)

Upcoming Chapter Program Survey

Speaking of surveys, our chapter will be conducting our own survey shortly. Designed to elicit your ideas for guest speakers and programs for membership meetings, the form will ask members to indicate/rate interest in a variety of topics and request suggestions for non-listed topics. The form will be available at membership meetings and in an upcoming newsletter. When you're asked to fill it out, please do so; Chapter 1747 is your organization, and this is an easy and helpful way to participate in it.

Volunteer Update and Thanks

Again, thanks to Dorothy Bice for helping prepare the March newsletter for mailing and Louise Cole for taking it to the post office. We are still seeking someone to fill the vacancy of second vice presi-

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dent and as always, hope to get more volunteers to participate in our community and recruitment activities, such as parades and fairs.

And again, special thanks to those members who attended two more legislative hearings in Annapolis; their participation brought our treasury an additional \$70. And thanks to Ed Bice's efforts that got them there. And a special note: Shortly after Chapter 1747 was chartered in 1980, it was called the "Flagship Chapter" because of its *volunteer spirit* and rapid growth. Apparently, that spirit is still alive and well in our chapter. Elsewhere in this newsletter you'll find information on our special recruitment contest which your executive board hopes will bring us at least 30 new members by the end of May. They would definitely be most welcome right now, since the gains we experienced last month have just been offset, according to the most recent national office membership report. The new report shows our smallest gain in new members in months, only two; however, the good news is that they both were recruited by chapter members.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Joseph Young

Senate Rejects Amendment to Offer Seniors \$250 Payment

On March 3, the Senate sidetracked an amendment by Senator Bernard Sanders, I-VT that would have provided a one-time \$250 payment to older Americans who received Social Security, Veteran's Benefits, Railroad Retirement, and Supplemental Security Income in 2009. Prior to the vote, NARFE President Margaret L. Baptiste sent a letter to all 100 senators urging them to vote for the Sanders amendment. Baptiste wrote that the payment was needed to help older Americans shoulder growing living expenses in a year without a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA). She also thanked Sanders for adding language that would have offered a refundable \$250 tax credit in 2010 to over 1 million federal, state and local government retirees who are not eligible to receive Social Security benefits.

Senator Sanders tried to attach the amendment to H.R. 4213, a bill to extend unemployment compensation, renew several expiring tax breaks, help states with skyrocketing Medicaid costs and prevent doctors from having to absorb cuts in Medicare reimbursements. The 47-50 vote that killed the Sanders amendment was on a procedural motion on whether the Senate would consider as "emergency spending" the \$12.7 billion price of the \$250 payment. Following the vote, Baptiste said, "Like Senator Sanders, NARFE will continue to fight for this relief on behalf of all older persons."

FEHBP Prescription Drug Pricing Hearing

The archived webcast of the February 23rd hearing of the Federal Workforce, Postal Service and the District of Columbia Subcommittee on H.R. 4489, the "Federal Employee Health Ben-

efit Program (FEHBP) Prescription Drug Integrity, Transparency and Cost Savings Act" is now available on the Subcommittee's web site. NARFE's Legislative Director, Dan Adcock, testified on behalf of NARFE, and answered questions from the Subcommittee Chairman, Rep. Stephen Lynch, D-MA. The gateway to the webcast, witness list and written testimony is http://www.oversight.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=4802&Itemid=27

The NARFE web site has both the press release and NARFE testimony. *The link to the press release is <http://www.narfe.org/departments/guest/print.cfm?ID=2019> and the link for the testimony is <http://www.narfe.org/departments/home/articles.cfm?ID=2020>.*

Bipartisan Budget Commission

President Obama has named the four Executive Branch members of The National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform. The Commission, created by a February 18th Executive Order, will be co-chaired by former Clinton White House Chief of Staff, Erskine Bowles, and former Senate Whip, Alan Simpson (R-WY). The four Executive branch members are: David Cote, Ann Fudge, Alice Rivlin, and Andy Stern. Biographical information is posted on the White House web site.

On February 23rd, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) named three Senators: Kent Conrad (D-ND), Max Baucus (D-MT) and Dick Durbin (D-IL). House and Senate Republican leaders each named three of their members to serve on the bipartisan Commission. House Republican Leader, John Boehner (R-OH) named Rep. David Camp (R-MI), Rep. Jeb Hensarling (R-TX) and Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI). Senate Republican Leader, Mitch McConnell (R-KY) named Sen. Tom Coburn (R-OK), Sen. Mike Crapo (R-ID) and Sen. Judd Gregg (R-NH). The Commission is expected to hold public hearings and is charged to make its report on December 1st. The full text of the Executive Order, including the Commission's mission, is available on the White House web site. (Use <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/executive-order-national-commission-fiscal-responsibility-and-reform>.)

NARFE will continue to monitor the work of the Commission and plans to point out to commissioners that federal civil service retirement benefits are fully funded and actuarially sound and should not be swept up in the effort to achieve political as well as deficit reduction goals.

CHAPTER 1747 BUDGET REPORT

Balance on: February 1, 2010	\$3901.20
Receipts:	474.38
Disbursements:	582.54
Balance on: February 28, 2010	\$3793.04

STATE LEGISLATION

Ed Bice

If you looked at the March issue of the NARFE magazine you would have seen the NARFE-PAC cover. Starting on page 18 is a concise article that details the how and why of the Political Action Committee (PAC). I urge you to read the article if you have not already. This year is an important year for the PAC that demands our support as it is an election year. Your contributions will help elect national candidates who will support NARFE's issues and will ensure that NARFE's legislative accomplishments continue. (See page 16 in the February issue.) To make a difference, see page 22 in the March issue which has all the information you will need to contribute to our defense fund for 2010.



The Chapter's March meeting featured presidents-- from left: National Vice President Joseph Beaudoin, Chapter President Dorothy Campbell, immediate Past President Ed Bice and Past President Paul Schuette.

PROGRAMS

Howard Dobson

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.

Maryland legislators will brief us on the achievements of the general assembly at our May 20 meeting. They will provide information on legislation important to NARFE members and answer questions.

Come to the Chapter picnic on June 17 at Allen Pond Park. The event will be catered by Adam's Ribs of Edgewater MD. We will enjoy the same fine menu that we had at our picnic in 2008. Make your checks payable to NARFE Chapter 1747 for \$18.00. Sign up at the monthly meeting or send a check to Howard Dobson. Reservations are required for this event and payment must be received by June 14.

"30 Years, 30 New Members" Contest

To mark Chapter 1747's 30th Anniversary (May 6) a special new membership drive will take place between April 15 and May 31, with the goal of recruiting at least 30 new members.

The member who signs up the most new members will be awarded a prize of \$30. In case of a tie, each winner will receive \$30. Winner(s) will be announced and prize(s) will be awarded at the September 16 general membership meeting.

The contest winner(s) will be determined by the recruiter's NARFE ID number (membership number) which must appear on the new member's membership application. Each member's NARFE ID number appears over his/her name on their NARFE Magazine mailing label, and on the Chapter 1747 Newsletter label.

Membership applications are available at every general membership meeting, or can be obtained through the chapter website, www.NARFE1747.org, or the national website, www.narfe.org. They can also be obtained by contacting Lillie Watson or Dorothy Campbell. And don't forget: If you hand a prospective member a membership application, be sure to fill in your NARFE ID number; if you direct a prospective member to join via the internet, be sure to give them your NARFE ID number and ask them to include it on the application.

OK recruiters: Let's all see if we can reach our goal of at least 30 new members. Good luck!

Coming June 17th: The Picnic!

Allen Pond Park, East Pavillion, 12:00 Noon

Menu includes *Barbequed Chicken, Pulled Pork BBQ, Bourbon Beef Brisket, Potato Salad, Cole Slaw, BBQ'd Baked Beans, Fruit Salad, Rolls, and Cake, along with Soda, Tea, and Water.*

Cost: \$18.00 person, paid to Howard Dobson by June 14th.

DAYS TO REMEMBER

April 2 – Good Friday

April 4 – Easter Sunday

April 15 – Final day to file Federal Tax Returns

April 30 – Deadline for NARFE Scholarship Applications

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	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
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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 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	

Bart Goldstein, Downsize Inc. - Thursday, April 15

Maryland State General Assembly - Thursday, May 20

Picnic - Thursday, June 17