



NARFE NEWSLETTER

GREATER BOWIE-CROFTON AREA

CHAPTER 1747

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

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www.NARFE1747.org

May 2010

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS are held at Bowie City Hall (2614 Kenhill Drive, Bowie) on the third Thursday of EVERY month (except in July and August) 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, May 20, Representatives from the Maryland General Assembly will brief us on this year's legislative session.
- ❖ *General Meeting.* June 17, Biennial Picnic, 11:30 AM, at the East Pavilion, Allen Pond Park, Bowie.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dorothy Campbell

Take Part and Enjoy Chapter Activities

Our chapter has just ended an intense period of state legislative activity (attending hearings and testifying in Annapolis) and is now beginning to focus more intently on public relations and recruitment, notably at community events. Yes, it's already May (doesn't time fly by?) and once again, it's time for us to proudly show our communities both our civic and NARFE pride as we march, walk and even bicycle in the Crofton Armed Forces Day and Homeland Security Parade and the Bowie Memorial Day Parade.

And there's more. We'll have a table at the Bowie Senior Center's Senior Information Fair on May 27 and, as usual, will do the same at Bowiefest on June 5. Yes, the parades are "fun activities," but so are the information tables, even though our main purpose in taking part in them is to let our neighbors know what NARFE is and why they should join NARFE if they're eligible.

These public relations/recruitment efforts are critical to the organization's future. And since NARFE's the only organization in

existence whose purpose is to protect and preserve the earned benefits of federal retirees/annuitants, we need to let everyone out there know about it and the benefits of belonging to it. So join in. Help build our organization and have a good time as well! Anyone wishing to have fun and recruit should contact me or another officer.

Learning More About Leading

Back in March, 1st VP Howard Dobson and I attended the Region II Leadership Symposium. I attended workshops designed to help presidents, membership chairs and public relations officers and found it most informative and helpful. The exchange of information between officers/committee chairs of other chapters in the five states in our region was especially valuable too; it's extremely useful to hear how other chapters address our mutual problems. I only wish that more members had attended, particularly those who are considering becoming more active in the chapter.

Please Give Us Your New Address

In the last newsletter, we appealed to everyone who has moved permanently or temporarily to let us know their new/seasonal address. This request needs repeating, since the failure to notify us of address changes costs us \$.44 for each returned newsletter. And, just as important, those whose newsletters are returned are missing out on reading that issue(s) — and we don't want that to happen. And if you think it's only a couple of returns each month, we received, in the last two months, a total of nine newsletters returned for members who permanently changed their addresses, and 29 for those who temporarily changed their addresses (our snowbirds, maybe?). Although we understand that moving is a busy time, it does affect our treasury. So please help by letting us know when you move. And notify national NARFE too so we'll all save

It's our Anniversary — Chapter 1747 is 30!
May 6, 1980–May 6, 2010

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money and you won't miss your newsletter or magazine. And the Postal Service needs to know too, and now lets you change your address online; contact usps.com/umove. Thanks.

Volunteer Thanks/Update

Again, many thanks to Dorothy and Ed Bice and Louise Cole for helping with this newsletter. And a special thanks to Rick Beach who has offered to seal and label our newsletter, thus giving our regular crew a break. And, don't forget: we still need a 2nd vice president; we also need members to work with committee chairs, so we won't have so many committees of one!

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Joseph Young

House Passes Health Care Reform Bill

On Sunday, March 21, 2010 the House Democrats made history by passing the Health Care Reform Bill by a vote of 219 to 212. The bill passed without a single Republican vote.

After decades of trying to secure health care for all Americans, the Democrats won an historic victory that will expand health care coverage to over 31 million Americans that have been denied coverage.

"Today we have the opportunity to complete the great unfinished business of our society and pass health insurance reform for all Americans as a right, not a privilege," Pelosi said before the House approved the bill, which first passed the Senate on Christmas Eve.

On Tuesday, March 23, 2010, President Obama sat down at a small desk in the East Room of the White House to sign the historic bill into law, using 22 pens to do so.

"Today, after almost a century of trying; today, after over a year of debate; today, after all the votes have been tallied — health insurance reform becomes law in the United States of America, President Obama said prior to signing the bill.

NARFE Lauds OPM for Consultation on New Voluntary Annuitant FEHBP Option

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) President Margaret L. Baptiste praised John Berry, director of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), for consulting with NARFE on a proposed Medicare-related pilot project in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP). The proposed project would test the viability of a voluntary "sub-option" within the FEHBP that would pay all or part of a Medicare Part B (as appropriate) for Medicare-eligible federal annuitants.

"If proven feasible, the Medicare sub-option could save some federal annuitants money and help to contain costs in FEHBP for workers, retirees and survivors," said Baptiste. "What's more, we appreciate that, through our consultation with Director Berry, the

call letter clarifies that the 'sub-option' would not open the door for separately rated annuitant plans, which we believe would result in retirees and survivors paying substantially higher premiums than other FEHBP enrollees. NARFE would oppose the creation of any FEHBP plan for annuitants with premiums based on their age and health costs."

The OPM letter stipulates: "We do not support splitting risk pools for annuitants and active employees and believe that these pilots can demonstrate ways of stemming cost growth through strengthened benefits coordination."

The new coverage would be offered to Medicare-eligible annuitants as a sub-option of an existing FEHBP plan. If an annuitant chose the sub-option of an insurance carrier's "standard option," they would pay the same premium share as a worker or retiree enrolled in the traditional standard option. However, unlike the standard plan, the sub-option would pay all or part of a Medicare Part B premium, as appropriate. As a result, an annuitant enrolled in the sub-option would save about \$1,200 a year on Part B premiums. However, a sub-option participant would be required to pay the same deductibles, co-payments and coinsurance as workers or retirees who are age 64 and younger and not yet eligible for Medicare. With the exception of premiums and prescription drug co-payments, most annuitants age 65 and older who are enrolled in Medicare and a traditional FEHBP fee-for-service or preferred provider plan pay no out-of-pocket costs. Therefore, the sub-option could be cost-effective for an annuitant who does not have high out-of-pocket costs. In addition, annuitants might appreciate an option for what is basically seamless coverage, which mirrors what they had while they were on the payroll.

"Given the potential savings to federal annuitants, and the voluntary nature of the pilot, we believe that the Medicare sub-option ought to be given a chance. We are pleased that the Call Letter clarifies that the sub-option will not automatically become a regular feature of FEHBP until OPM evaluates it and decides whether it merits continuation after the second year of the demonstration. NARFE will continue to review the development of the new option with OPM as the pilot project moves forward," Baptiste added.

Show Your Chapter Pride for only \$15!

You can show your pride in Chapter 1747 and protect your eyes by purchasing a chapter "visor" — the perfect accessory to wear while taking part in NARFE/community activities and while gardening, golfing, walking, bicycling, sunbathing or whatever else you'll be doing this spring, summer and fall. Our attractive, high quality, bright red fabric visors with NARFE Chapter 1747 stitched on them in white are still available and they're on sale for \$15 each. Pick one up at the next meeting, or contact any officer.

STATE LEGISLATION

Ed Bice

The following members of the chapter went to Annapolis at least one time to support the State Legislative Committee by testifying or being present at the House or Senate hearings: Louise Cole, Joe Young, Evelyn Harris, Fred Harris, Lillie Watson, Frank Evans, Frank Sovaiko, Frances Steburg, and Dorothy Bice. Frances and Dorothy were our most faithful supporters as they went to Annapolis three separate days. I thank them all for their support.

The 2010 session of Maryland's General Assembly ended on April 12. I must report that none of our priority issues were passed by the Legislature. Our issues involved money. With the state facing a two billion dollar shortfall, it was expected that any bill with money involved would not get passed. In spite of these results, I do feel there were positive things that happened that will be important in the 2011 Session.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

With everyone's help, our special 30th Anniversary Recruitment Contest will bring us lots of new members. Although the latest report from national NARFE lists eight new members and one reinstatement, they dropped seven members for non-payment of dues, three members passed away and one moved out of state and transferred to a chapter near her new home. So let's all get some new members to offset those we lose.

Nancy M. Arteche
Frederick G. Bischoff
Dwayne Butler
Hoyt Galloway

Terri Large
John P. Roberts
Vann H. Sapp
Myra P. Young

CONDOLENCES

The following chapter members passed away recently. Our prayers and sympathy go out to their families and friends.

Anna B. Kuhne
Kathleen H. Basquill (Charter Member)
Anthony T. Michael



*Chapter 1747 is 30 years old!
(and look how far we've come!)*



CHAPTER PICNIC

**ALLEN POND PARK, BOWIE,
EAST PAVILION**

THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 2010
SOCIAL 11:30; LUNCH NOON - 2:00
RAIN OR SHINE

TWO-HOUR BUFFET BY ADAM'S RIBS

SANDWICHES:
PULLED PORK AND
BOURBON BEEF BRISKET;
1/4 BARBECUED CHICKEN;
POTATO SALAD; COLE SLAW;
BARBECUED BAKED BEANS; ROLLS; BUTTER;
FRUIT SALAD
CAKE; WATER; AND A VARIETY OF SODAS

COST: \$18.00

SIGN UP AT THE CHAPTER MEETING
IN MAY, OR CALL HOWARD AT 301-809-1645.

Reservations **MUST** be MADE and
PAID FOR by June 14th.



DAYS TO REMEMBER

May 9 – Mother's Day
May 15 – Armed Forces Day
May 31 – Memorial Day (observed)

Greater Bowie-Crofton Area NARFE News

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Vol. 30, No. 9

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
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State Legislation	Ed Bice	301-464-3748	DE3637@verizon.net

Activity Coordinators

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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
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	Dave Galliant	301-262-7261	
	Tom Page	301-262-3418	
Sunshine	Marjorie Laios	301-262-1566	

Maryland State General Assembly Briefing - Thursday, May 20

Biennial Picnic - Thursday, June 17