



NARFE NEWSLETTER

GREATER BOWIE-CROFTON AREA

CHAPTER 1747

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

Volume 30, No. 10

www.NARFE1747.org

June 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.* June 17, Biennial Picnic, 11:30 AM, at the East Pavilion, Allen Pond Park, Bowie.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dorothy Campbell

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

I can't thank too often the members/officers of our Chapter who participated in the May events that had already taken place at newsletter deadline time. The events include the Crofton Armed Forces Day and Homeland Security Day Parade on May 1 and the Maryland Federation's 2010 Mini-Convention, held here in Bowie on May 3 and 4.

They deserve recognition for literally "going that extra mile" for the Chapter. Whether walking with our banner, driving/riding in a vehicle, or handing out candy to the parade-watchers, these members were there: Dorothy and Ed Bice, Howard Dobson, Evelyn Harris, Jerry Kursban, Frances Steburg, Donna Minner, Bill Park (in his '63 Volkswagen), Frank Sovaiko and Steve Malley. And a special thanks to our photographer Frank Lee who, though he could not stay for the parade, stopped by with wife/member Ellen, and photographed us (I was there too)— all patriotically garbed in red, white and blue and sporting red Chapter visors.

Chapter Goes All-Out for Mini-Convention

I believe we set a chapter record for participation in a Federation event, when on May 3 and 4 we had 17 chapter members in attendance at the mini-convention. Joining me were Dorothy and Ed Bice, Howard Dobson, Lillie Watson, Louise Cole, Al Golato, Judi Schmidt, Jack Calloway, Jerry Kursban, Donna Minner, Luz Naval, Evelyn Harris, Shirley DeJavanne, Jim Merna, Claire Morgan and Tina Bell. A special thanks to Claire and Tina, two of our

chapter's newest members, and another to Judi, who at the last minute stepped in to replace Barbara Wheatley at the registration table when a medical problem caused Barbara to cancel.

Most of those listed took an active role as sergeants-at-arms or working at tables, collecting money for MD-PAC, selling 50/50 tickets, distributing prizes, setting up a Bowie information table, leading us all in the Pledge of Allegiance, and speaking on issues. However, all of our members followed the decidedly lively and sometimes controversial discussions of the resolutions that will be forwarded — or not forwarded — to the upcoming NARFE National Convention to be held in Grand Rapids, MI, August 29 to Sept. 3, and asked questions of the mini-convention's special guest, Senator Ben Cardin. And congratulations to Ed Bice, who has been appointed chair of the Federation's State Legislative Committee — proof positive of the great job he's been doing as a SLC member for many years. A note: For information on the resolutions/mini-convention, check out MDNARFE.org.

So, kudos to everyone. At both events, these volunteers did the Chapter proud. When you see them at our June picnic or the September meeting, thank them. They were all there representing YOU! And I hope that in May 2011, when the 3-day Federation Convention takes place in Bowie, they'll be there again and you will be too.

A Few Reminders. . .

The June picnic is on the 17th. See more about it on page 3. And if you haven't returned your Program Survey form, please bring it to the picnic or mail it in. And remember, you still have till the end of June to sign up new members and be eligible to win our Recruitment Contest!

Finally, I'll see you in September. I'm skipping the picnic to have knee replacement surgery in June, but will be back on the job for the July and August executive board meetings and the national convention in Grand Rapids. And if anyone is interested

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Handling the “prizes table” (l-r) are chapter members Dorothy Bice, Evelyn Harris, and Donna Minner. Jennifer Ramsey, Rockville president (seated, r), also worked the table; she and Dorothy awarded the prizes.



Four Chapter members served at sergeants-at-arms: (l-r) are Howard Dobson; Sgt.-at-Arms Chair Tom Leonard, Aspen Hill Chapter; Jack Calloway; Luz Naval. Not shown: Jerry Kursban.

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in going to Grand Rapids, please contact me or any other officer; maybe we can increase the number of members who attend a national convention, just as we did for the recent Federation mini-convention. We are entitled to 18 delegates based on our membership; but so far, I'm the only one going. *(The chapter can provide some financial assistance, and the MD Federation will pay the registration fee for up to three delegates.)*

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Joseph Young

NARFE Applauds Senator Cardin

Margaret L. Baptiste, president of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE), today praised Senator Ben Cardin, D-MD, for introducing companion legislation in the Senate that would allow dependent children of federal workers and annuitants to remain on their parents' federal health insurance plan to age 26. In addition, Baptiste thanked Senators Barbara A. Mikulski, D-MD, Susan Collins, R-ME, Mark Warner, D-VA, John Kerry, D-MA, Jay Rockefeller, D-WV, Daniel Akaka, D-HI, Tim Johnson, D-SD, Jeff Bingaman, D-NM, Ted Kaufman, D-DE, Mary Landrieu, D-LA, and Debbie Stabenow, D-MI, for also sponsoring the “Federal Employees Health Benefits Pro-

gram (FEHBP) Dependent Coverage Extension Act.” Rep. Chris Van Hollen, D-MD, introduced the House version of the bill on May 4, 2010.

The comprehensive health care legislation recently signed into law includes a requirement that, by September 2010, group health plans cover dependent children on their parents' health insurance up to age 26. While many insurers have decided to extend dependent coverage even before the September deadline, the law authorizing the FEHBP prevents the Office of Personnel Management from allowing federal workers and annuitants to extend coverage for their dependent children until January 2011.

Baptiste said that Cardin's and Van Hollen's bills would resolve this inequity by amending the FEHBP law so that coverage may be extended to young adults during the current contract year. “Today, dependent children of federal workers and annuitants lose their health coverage when they turn 22 years old, just when they graduate and begin looking for employment with health benefits in the current tough job market,” Baptiste said. “FEHBP should start covering our kids now, just as other insurers have started doing in the private-sector. That's why NARFE, as a matter of equity, endorses Senator Cardin's and Congressman Van Hollen's ‘Federal Employees Health Benefits Program Dependent Coverage Extension Act.’ We encourage Congress to swiftly approve this important legislation.”

Spending Cut Proposals to Be Solicited at Town Hall Meetings

Even as the Fiscal Commission created by President Obama conducts its monthly meetings, some Members of Congress are planning Town Hall Meetings for the upcoming Memorial Day Recess (May 29 – June 7) to solicit spending reduction proposals from the public. This opens the possibility that some constituents could suggest to their lawmakers that federal retirement and health benefits be cut. In turn, legislators could gather these suggestions and seek to offer them as amendments to pending legislation even before Election Day!

NARFE's best defense is vigilant attendance and participation at every Congressional Town Hall Meeting and the electronic cousin, telephone Town Hall Conference Calls. In sum, we urge NARFE members to be cautious of proposals by members of Congress at these meetings which would promote benefit cuts and take acquiescence by attendees as endorsement. NARFE members should contact their Representative and both Senators and asked to be informed when any Town Hall Meetings – in person or telephonic -- are scheduled during the Memorial Day Recess. NARFE continues to make its Toll Free number, 1-866-220-0044, available for reaching the Capitol switchboard. Ask for your Representative and Senators by name. The NARFE web site also provides regularly updated information about many, but not all, Congressional Town Hall Meetings. (The link to that

portion of the NARFE web site is <http://www.narfe.org/pdf/CongressionalTownHallMeetings.pdf>)

Baptiste Urges Action on Fiscal Commission

President Baptiste urges NARFE members to enlist in the defense of our earned benefits. "Given the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform's mandate to scrutinize all federal spending — including federal retirement — I urge each NARFE member to use the Legislative Action Center on the NARFE web site to join the 4,458 members who have already ... and send a message to your Representative and Senators."

STATE LEGISLATION

Ed Bice

The 2010 session ended on April 12 and our top three priorities failed to win support this year. They were: equalize the tax exemption for Maryland seniors, an annual tax credit for long term care (LTC) insurance premiums, and reduce the property tax burden on senior homeowners. However, members of the SLC did support and testify on two additional subjects in which bills were passed by the General Assembly. They were a uniform durable power of attorney and the Maryland false claims act.

Kudos to Bill

At the Federation Board meeting on May 4, it was announced that our chairman, Bill Ferguson of Chapter 422, Laurel was stepping down as head of the State Legislative Committee in June after three years. He will remain a member of the committee.

Bill did a wonderful job as our leader. Committee membership was expanded to 14 members, participation in our efforts to get favorable legislation was increased, training sessions were organized and held, more members testified than ever on legislation before committees, MD PAC, our political action committee was established and funded. Bill is a man of good humor and great convictions. He has our great thanks. Ed Bice was approved by board members as the new chairman.

United Seniors of Maryland (USM)

Chapter's 1747 membership in United Seniors of Maryland was approved by its board in April. USM now consists of 74 organization members and 205 individual memberships. Maryland NARFE and seven chapters now belong to this group who advocate on behalf of one million state seniors. Ed Bice has been appointed to serve as chapter representative.

DAYS TO REMEMBER

June 14 – Flag Day
June 20 – Father's Day

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, Dessert And Beverages:

COST: \$18.00

CALL HOWARD DOBSON: 301-809-1645.

Reservations **MUST** be **MADE** and

PAID FOR by June 14th.

CHAPTER 1747 BUDGET REPORT

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Balance on: April 1, 2010 | \$3354.89 |
| Receipts: | 683.49 |
| Disbursements: | 402.00 |
| Balance on: April 30, 2010 | \$3636.38 |

WELCOMES AND CONDOLENCES

Welcome to our newest members! They are:

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Walter Besecker | Doris V. Manzy |
| Marcia Bowens | Blanche E. Peterson-James |
| Christine Chulick | Michael Schroeder |
| Marion Cole | Ernestine B. Scott |
| Danny J. Crawford | Yvonne T. Young |

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

Sol Fingerhut **Jackson C. Rakes**

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. 10

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

Biennial Picnic - Thursday, June 17

SEE YOU ON SEPTEMBER 16!