



NARFE NEWSLETTER

GREATER BOWIE-CROFTON AREA

CHAPTER 1747

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

Volume 31, No. 1

www.NARFE1747.org

September 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, September 16, Amy Billing speaks about the Maryland Community Services Locator.
- ❖ **General Meeting. Saturday,** October 16, our health fair provides information on the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dorothy Campbell

NARFE: Looking Forward to a Healthy Future

When I wrote this article in mid-August, I was looking forward to flying to Grand Rapids on August 27 for the NARFE National Convention, at which all the delegates would determine the direction of NARFE for the next few years. The two biggest issues: a now-justified dues increase and new leaders to help us find new ways to inspire both active and retired federal workers to join and **rejoin** the only organization whose primary purpose is to protect and preserve their earned retirement benefits.

Will I See You in September?

I'm hoping for an extra-large turnout for our September 16 meeting. Our agenda is full. I'll bring you news from Grand Rapids. I'll remind you of the wonderful opportunity coming May 2–4, 2011 when the Maryland Federation Biennial Convention takes place at the Comfort Inn in Bowie—when our chapter will have its first-ever opportunity to show what we can do to make Maryland's biennial convention a success. This will, of course, take a bit of time and effort and volunteerism on the part of many of us—and not just officers—but I believe we can make the 2011 Federation

Convention the best one ever. We've already proved, this past May, by helping out with the Federation's Mini-Convention, that we are up to it—and I'm confident that we can and will do even better next year. So come September 16 and volunteer!

And there's more on our agenda. One's a surprise (come and see what it will be!) and, of course, our guest speaker (see page 3)—will present us with some very different, useful information.

On the Legislative Front

As everyone knows, Maryland's primary elections take place on September 14. Some contests are critical, many are heated, and all should be of interest to you. So check out Ed Bice's article on page 2 and you'll find where the Maryland general assembly candidates in the districts covered by Chapter 1747's charter stand on our legislative concerns. If your district isn't listed here, you can contact Ed (see page 4).

Finally, it's a new NARFE year. Your Executive Board has worked hard over the long, hot summer to plan great things for you—so come to meetings, enjoy our programs and special events—and be ready to answer YOUR CHAPTER'S call for volunteers.

DAYS TO REMEMBER

September 6 – Labor Day

September 8 – Rosh Hashonah (begins at sundown)

September 11 – Patriot Day

September 17– Yom Kippur (begins at sundown)

STATE LEGISLATION

Ed Bice

Look Before You Vote

The State Legislative Committee (SLC) in July sent to all candidates for the 2011 General Assembly a copy of the Federation's 2011 Legislative Program pamphlet and a survey form with instructions. This was done to solicit support from the candidates for our program. Candidates were requested to indicate their support for our three priority issues by checking yes or no and also, if elected, if they would sponsor or cosponsor legislation dealing with these issues.

Before you vote, you might wish to see how the candidate in your district responded to the questions about these issues that concern you:

- 1) *Equalize the dollar value for the senior exemption for **all** seniors over the age of 65 or blind.*
- 2) *Allow an annual tax credit for the payment of long-term care insurance premiums.*
- 3) *Reduce the property tax burden on senior homeowners*

Candidates by DISTRICT (in our chapter areas) who RESPONDED are:

DISTRICT 21:	James Rosapepe, Barbara Frush, Ben Barnes, Joseline Pena-Melnyk, Jason Papanikolas.	YES on all questions.
DISTRICT 23:	Darrell Carrington, Douglas J.J. Peters.	YES on all questions.
DISTRICT 23A:	Paulette Faulkner, James Hubbard.	YES on all questions.
DISTRICT 23B:	Robin Breedon, Marvin Holmes, Jr.	YES on all questions.
DISTRICT 24:	Joanne Benson, Nathaniel Exum, Clayton Aarons, Sherry James-Strother.	YES on all questions.
DISTRICT 25:	Dereck Davis, Michelle Wright.	YES on all questions.
DISTRICT 32:	James DeGrange, Larry Barber, Pamela Beidle, Mary Ann Love, Theodore Sophocleus, Stephanie Hodges, George Law, Wayne Smith.	YES on all questions. NO on question 1, YES on questions 2 and 3.
DISTRICT 33:	James King, Edward Reilly.	YES on all questions.
DISTRICT 33A:	Madonna Brennan, David Boschert, Tony McConkey, Sid Saab.	YES on all questions.

Candidates by DISTRICT who DID NOT RESPOND are*:

DISTRICT 21:	Brian McDaniel, Devin Tucker, Scott Dibiasio, Kat Nelson, K. Bryan Walker.	
DISTRICT 23:	Mike Anderson, Bobby Henry, Jr.	
DISTRICT 23A:	Lisa Ransom, Geraldine Valentino-Smith, Nicole Williams, Margaret Moodie, Terence Collins, Shukoor Ahmed.	
DISTRICT 24:	Tiffany Alston, Nancy Dixon-Saxon, Greg Hall, Carolyn Howard, Michael Oputa, Byron Richardson, Michael Vaughan, Kenneth Williams.	
DISTRICT 25:	Ulysses Currie, Erek Barron, Aisha Braveboy, Antonio Faunteroy, Melony Griffith, Davion Percy.	
DISTRICT 32:	David Starr, Derick Young.	
DISTRICT 33:	Brian Benjers.	
DISTRICT 33A:	Vic Bernson, Cathy Vitale.	

*If the candidate in your district didn't respond, contact them to ask why. Call or e-mail Ed Bice (see page 4) for their contact information. You can fill in the response in the space next to their name. If you get a response, please let Ed know what the response is.

PROGRAMS

Howard Dobson

Thanks to those of you who submitted your questionnaires for the Chapter Program Survey. Unfortunately, only twenty three responses were received. This figure is just three percent of the chapter membership. The Board reviewed the responses for each of the ten topics as well as the other topics and thoughts that respondents provided. This information was useful in indicating the preferences of those who are concerned with programs. Many of the topics addressed as priorities by respondents are being covered in our current program speaker series.

Our program for 2010 is presented below.

September 16—Ms. Amy Billing will speak about the Maryland Community Services Locator. This program can provide interested parties with information concerning most of the types of services that may be needed from local governments and private community organizations.

October 16—Come out to the Multi-purpose Room at Bowie City Hall on this Saturday morning for our annual health fair. Ours is the earliest date for any function that provides information on the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program. We will have health plan representatives from: Aetna, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, United Health Care, Kaiser Permanente, United Healthcare Vision, GEHA, and the American Postal Workers Union. We will also have our friends from the Lions Club available to give blood pressure checks and other health tests.

November 18—Many members have questions about federal legislation that can affect our benefits. You can ask Mr. John Hatton from the Legislative Department at NARFE National Headquarters. Mr. Hatton will answer questions on healthcare reform laws, the fiscal commission, and other current topics.

December 16—We will hold our Holiday Luncheon. Do you have suggestions for a restaurant or menu items? If you do, contact Howard Dobson or any officer (see page 4).

CHAPTER 1747 BUDGET REPORT

Balance on: July 1, 2010	\$3638.13
Receipts:	278.64
Disbursements:	263.51
Balance on: July 31, 2010	\$3653.26

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

<p>Mae M. Bullock Gertrude D. Cornish Bettina Fletcher Marva C. Gary Ellen L. Herring Linda M. Horton Deborah C. Holston Joan R. Hyde</p>	<p>Wesley Jarmon Patricia A. Montgomery Sarah L. Perkins Ronald Rheinhardt William J. Webb Koto White David Williams</p>
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Continuing our usual pattern, the majority of these new members are active federal workers—meaning they are paying dues and getting the benefits of belonging—but probably won't be attending our *regular* Thursday meetings. However, we hope to see these "actives" at our October meeting, which will take place on **Saturday**, the 16th, at 10:00 a.m. at Bowie City Hall. Of course, we hope to see lots of retirees there too.

The October meeting gives all our members the opportunity to hear from and speak to some of the largest providers in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program—far in advance of Health Plan Open Season. In fact, Chapter 1747 is the first group to host such a program—giving you lots of time to think about health benefits for next year. Note: Open Season is November 8–December 13, 2010.

So mark your calendar and bring along coworkers and other guests—they're always welcome at our meetings and activities.

CONDOLENCES

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

<p>Richard A. Greenstein Donald R. Williams</p>	<p>Forest L. Williams</p>
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Greater Bowie-Crofton Area NARFE News

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Vol. 31, No. 1

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
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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	

Amy Billing, from the Maryland Community Services Locator, will speak at the September General Membership Meeting.

Come and discover how to find local help easily!