



NARFE NEWSLETTER

GREATER BOWIE-CROFTON AREA

CHAPTER 1747

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

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www.NARFE1747.org

January 2011

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, January 20, Ms. Diane Polangin of Total Tax Service will give us tips for filing Federal and State Income Tax Returns.
- ❖ *General Meeting.* Thursday, February, 17, Ms. Alice Roberts of BG&E speaks on area community and senior services.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dorothy Campbell

2010 Was Good, but 2011 Will Be Better!

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a happy holiday season and have resolved to make 2011 the year you will become active (or more active) in your NARFE chapter. That's right, YOUR CHAPTER. Not mine. Not the officers'. YOURS. And because it's yours, the chapter needs your cooperation and participation to make it bigger, better and stronger than ever!

If you thought 2010 was a good year for Chapter 1747, 2011 is going to be even better. While we will begin the year with our perennial tax expert Diane Polangin, we have a couple of new topics coming up at subsequent meetings. See page 3 for a list of our membership meetings through June.

In May the chapter will get its first-ever chance to play host for the Maryland Biennial Convention. The 2-day convention, Monday and Tuesday May 2-3, will be held at the Comfort Inn in Bowie, and our members have indicated their determination to make this the best convention the Federation's ever held. In response to my repeated requests, nearly 40 members have signed up as volunteers, signifying their willingness to do the preparatory work and handle all the necessary duties/responsibilities on the convention days. This is definitely in keeping with chapter history: in its earliest years, Chapter 1747 was known for its "volunteer spirit." I'm thrilled to say, nearly 31 years later, that spirit's still alive!

Also in May, we will elect officers to run the chapter for the next two years. So if you can give some time and energy to your chapter, think about taking on a leadership role. Then you can be the ones sworn into office at our biennial installation of officers' luncheon on June 17. Keep in mind that today's officers won't be around forever. For an organization to grow and prosper and be productive, there needs to be an ongoing influx of both new members and new officers. And even if you're not ready to take on a leadership position, please think about working with an officer and learning the job, and becoming a "back-up" — so there is always a full complement of officers on tap.

Resolve to Help NARFE

For years I put a list of resolutions in our newsletter that I hoped every chapter member would make and keep; in 2011, my list is exactly the same so I'll repeat it here — and hope every one will make and keep them.

- ◆ I will become a more active Chapter member.
- ◆ I will regularly attend membership meetings and other Chapter activities.
- ◆ I will volunteer to work on Chapter committees or for special events, run for office or become a "back-up" person.
- ◆ I will become a NARFE recruiter.
- ◆ I will read my chapter newsletter and NARFE magazine regularly.
- ◆ I will not let my dues lapse; to avoid this, and to save money, I will sign up for dues withholding.

Thanks to volunteers: Lately, I haven't always had space to thank some members who faithfully help our chapter. Like those who get our newsletter out: Jessica Forman, who moved to South Carolina but still puts the paper together, Rick Beach who labels and seals it, Louise Cole who mails it, and reliable back-ups when needed, Ed and Dorothy Bice. And sergeant-at-arms

Continued on page 2

Peter Hill, and those who back him up at meetings. And back-ups Donna Minner, Judy Schmidt and Dorothy Bice who work the tables at membership meetings when the “regulars” aren’t available. All members should thank them, and more members should follow their exemplary example.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Joseph Young

House & Senate Fail to Pass \$250 Payment to Seniors

On December 8th, the House voted NOT to provide Social Security beneficiaries a one-time \$250 payment in lieu of a second year without a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA). The bill, H.R. 5987, won a simple majority (254–153). Under House rules the legislation needed two-thirds of the House votes to pass. Also on December 8th, the Senate’s attempt to bring similar legislation, S. 3985, to a vote ended when the cloture vote, 53–45 failed to obtain the three-fifths majority.

Medicare Provider Reimbursements

Both the Senate and House have passed so called “Doc Fix” legislation, H.R. 4994, to prevent Medicare provider reimbursement rates from being cut 25 percent. The patch runs through 2011. The \$15 billion cost will be offset by making the first change in this year’s health care overhaul, reining in a tax credit that makes premiums more affordable for those eligible to participate in state-based exchanges.

Tax and Spending Still Unresolved

Congress is wrestling with expiring tax code provisions for individuals, corporations and estates. A separate “deal” negotiated by the Obama administration and Republican congressional leaders is very contentious but is gaining favorable reviews in the Senate; the same can be said for the House. A Senate vote on the “Tax and Spending Bill” was scheduled for December 14, 2010. Furthermore, the catchall spending measure, introduced and passed by a razor-thin margin on December 8th in the House (as an amendment to a Senate version of H.R. 3082), caps agencies’ operating budgets at \$1.1 trillion for fiscal 2011, level with last year’s budget. The bill also includes a 1.4 percent pay raise for military personnel but freezes federal civilian salaries for two years, in line with President Obama’s proposal to hold nonmilitary pay steady for 2011 and 2012. NARFE opposes the pay freeze. Workers still would be eligible for promotions and step increases. A *sine die* adjournment may not come until New Year’s Eve.

Telework Bill Signed into Law

On December 9, 2010 President Obama signed the Telework Enhancement Act (H.R. 1722 introduced by Rep. John Sarbanes). This new law expands telework in the federal government, which requires every federal agency to designate a senior-level employee as Telework Managing Officer to implement telework, and makes telework a central element of federal agencies’ “Continuation of Operations” to cope with a natural or manmade emergency. NARFE and other federal-postal organizations supported this legislation. (See January 2011 NARFE magazine, page 14.)

HELP!!! ACTION NEEDED NOW!!!

By the time you read this newsletter, it will be too late to contact your Senators and Representative prior to their vote on the legislation on a federal pay freeze, COLA and other benefit reductions. However you can still take action now to help NARFE in the following ways:

- ◆ If you are a NARFE member, sign up your spouse as a member.
- ◆ Recruit others to join. Tell non-members to join using the Chapter’s website: NARFE1747.org—which links to the national NARFE website. Or tell them to go directly to the national website, NARFE.org to join. Either way, it’s easy to join immediately, using a credit card. Tell all non-members “We must all hang together and support NARFE, or most assuredly Congress and the President will hang us all separately.”
- ◆ Join GEMS. The Global Electronic Messaging System (GEMS) is NARFE’s weekly Legislative Alert Hotline which keeps you apprised of legislative proposals and provides direct links so that you can respond to your Senators and Representative on any specific legislative issue of concern. To join GEMS, use Chapter 1747’s website or the national NARFE website (*see above paragraph*). If you do not have/use a computer, call 1-877-217-8234 to hear the alerts. Call 1-866-220-0044, the Capitol operator, to ask for and respond to your Representative and Senators.
- ◆ Make a direct contribution to NARFE-PAC using the coupon in NARFE magazine. Your donation helps NARFE lobbyists work on your behalf to oppose reductions in federal pay, retirement, health and other benefits.

It’s not now or ever too late to sign up your spouse in NARFE and recruit your friends and neighbors and former co-workers to join the only organization that works to protect and preserve the retirement benefits of workers—and which opposes efforts to make unconscionable reductions in the salaries and benefits of active federal employees.

And keep in mind that it’s not too late to sign up for GEMS or send a check to NARFE-PAC. And remember—you need NARFE and NARFE needs you!

STATE LEGISLATION

Ed Bice

United Seniors of Maryland

The date of the annual USM rally has been changed to Wednesday, March 9. The event will still be at St. John's College, Annapolis. Tickets already purchased are still good. If you have purchased tickets but can not attend on the new date please e-mail unitedseniors@verizon.net for a refund.

Chapter 1747 joined USM last April. The Federation belongs as well as eight other NARFE chapters. I have been appointed by Federation President Ted Jensen to be NARFE's representative on the USM Legislative Committee. This committee had its first meeting on November 15, before the start of the 2011 General Assembly session in January.

The SLC continues to meet in preparation for the 2011 session. Recently Joe Young and I met with Senator Ed Reilly, District 33 and Senator Ed DeGrange, District 32 in their offices to discuss and seek their support for our legislative priorities. Other members of the SLC throughout the state are meeting with their lawmakers.

PROGRAMS

Howard Dobson

In November, Mr. John Hatton from the NARFE national office provided a briefing on NARFE's legislative accomplishments and future challenges. In December, members enjoyed our Holiday Luncheon at the Nautilus Diner. We now look forward to our meetings in 2011.

- January 20 Income tax specialist Ms. Diane Polangin will provide members with information for filing our tax returns. Bring your income tax questions.
- February 17 Ms. Alice Roberts from the Baltimore Gas and Electric Company will brief members on area community and senior services sponsored by her firm.
- March 17 Mr. Gene Sumi from Homestead Gardens will discuss gardening methods.
- April 21 Attorney Jacqueline Byrd will discuss topics in senior law.
- May 19 Open Date. Suggestions for speakers and topics are welcome.
- June 16 Luncheon and installation of Chapter officers.

Take 5

minutes to make a difference.
Contact your senators and
representative about NARFE issues! Your opinion will count.

CHAPTER 1747 BUDGET REPORT

Balance on: November 1, 2010	\$3176.58
Receipts:	915.81
Disbursements:	696.40
Balance on: November 30, 2010	\$3395.99

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Bill Augustine
Gretchen Burton
Audrey Burwell
Kenneth Condit
Joann W. Grady
Shaleim Henry

Martin F. Malarkey
Gerard E. Murchie
Joanne O. Price
Paul Seigfried
Robert Thomas

For the second month in a row, we've gotten more new members than we've lost. Here's hoping that trend continues; it's a great way to start out the new year. Only one problem; all the new members were recruited by national NARFE—not by our chapter recruiters. So, recruiters, let's get on the ball and out-recruit national NARFE.

And this message to the new members: With your welcome comes the invitation to become active chapter members. Please start now by attending our membership meetings and getting involved.

DAYS TO REMEMBER

- January 1 – New Year's Day
January 17 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Save Your Chapter Money!

Because the Postal Service charges us 44 cents for each "undeliverable" newsletter, please notify us of ALL address changes, even temporary ones (like if you go south for the winter). If you do this, you'll always get your newsletter, and you'll save your chapter money. Thanks.

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
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	

Thursday, January 20, 2011
Federal and State Income Tax Tips
Thursday, February 17, 2011
BG&E Community and Senior Services