



NARFE NEWSLETTER

GREATER BOWIE-CROFTON AREA

CHAPTER 1747

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

Volume 31, No. 8

www.NARFE1747.org

April 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, April 21, Attorney Jacqueline Byrd will discuss topics in Senior Law.
- ❖ *General Meeting.* Thursday, May 19, 2011-2013 term elections and special guest speaker Ted Jensen, president, Maryland Federation of Chapters.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dorothy Campbell

Members Show Their 'NARFE PRIDE'

We're moving at a fast pace in the final weeks before the May 2-3 Maryland Federation's 2011 Convention to be held here in Bowie. Because it's in our area, and we're the "host chapter," many of us have taken on important responsibilities and tasks that will help the convention run smoothly and efficiently, and will help make it a most successful event.

Some details still needed by the volunteers — all 36 of them! — will be sent directly by e-mail/USPS mail as soon as the details are available, including the most up-to-date agenda for the two-day event. The agenda will be sent to all "delegates" too. And if anyone has any questions, you should contact me or Ed Bice; he is serving as chapter back-up chair for the convention.

So, as I'm writing this immediately after the March 17 membership meeting, I can proudly report that we've had very good feedback to the call for delegates — in addition to the fantastic response to the call for volunteers. You're amazing, Chapter 1747 members — I'm proud of you for clearly showing your NARFE CHAPTER PRIDE!

Many Other Activities Coming Up

For those who wish to be more involved in chapter activities, there's lots more to come, April – June:

- ◇ Crofton Annual Armed Forces & Homeland Security Day Parade
- ◇ Bowie Memorial Day Parade
- ◇ Bowie Memorial Day Wreath-laying Ceremony at Veterans Park, Old Bowie
- ◇ Bowiefest at Allen Pond Park
- ◇ Thursday, June 16: Installation of Officers Luncheon at Blue Dolphin Seafood Bar & Grill (see page 3).

The above events need participation by officers and members, some events more than others. Those wishing more information can contact me (see p. 4), find the details in upcoming newsletters, check our website, or pick up a "Special Events Info Sheet" at the April membership meeting and sign up there. All are a wonderful way to have fun, make a contribution to the community, and, just as importantly, help publicize NARFE and help our chapter to increase membership.

And speaking of membership, this year the entire NARFE organization is focusing on recruiting new members — both active federal employees and retirees. This year it's critical — given the state of the economy at federal, state and local levels and the resultant threats to the lives and livelihoods of all public employees. So come on out — have a good time and do your part to make NARFE grow!

Protect America's Heartbeat

In the next few weeks we'll all be hearing more about national NARFE's exciting new program being tested in 10 states, including Maryland. Called Protect America's Heartbeat, the program will involve members at all levels, and call on everyone to participate in a variety of ways. Check it out at www.ProtectAmericasHeartbeat.org.

Thanks to Volunteers

Along with my usual thanks to our regular newsletter helpers, this month I'm adding thanks to Dottie Van Doren, who presented the Executive Board with some ideas and research to publicize

our chapter in the local press. And, of course, thanks to those who faithfully work at the “tables” at membership meetings.

Farewell to Two Officers

Those 1747 members who have been around for a while may recall Don Enty, a true activist, who served as chapter president July 1990–June 1991. Don died on Sunday, March 13 after a long siege with Alzheimer’s. He also will be remembered by many long-time activists in the Maryland Federation of Chapters, where he served for two years as president.

On March 7, NARFE lost a great officer: National Treasurer Charley Saylor who succumbed to cancer. Charley, a former postmaster in Annapolis, was a truly committed NARFE member whose participation spanned many years and many positions. After holding office in his Chapter and in the Maryland Federation, he served as Region II Vice President. Last year, he was elected National Treasurer. A good friend of all, a tireless activist and a most knowledgeable and helpful officer, Charley last visited our chapter and installed our officers at our June 2009 luncheon.

Our sincere condolences go to the families and close friends of both Don and Charley.

Lee Tuveson Appointed Interim 1st VP

With the resignation of 1st VP Howard Dobson on March 17, I have appointed, with the approval of the Executive Board, Lee Tuveson as interim VP to serve out Howard’s unexpired term. Several years ago, Lee served as newsletter editor and currently is one of the three service officers in our chapter. An expert on FERS, he has taught at pre-retirement seminars and at MD-Federation workshops over the years.

STATE LEGISLATION *Ed Bice*

For the 2011 General Assembly session the State Legislative Committee (SLC) had two priority issues, both of which have been priority issues on our agenda for some time. They are Senior Tax Relief (equalizing the senior exemption for all over the age of 65) and an annual tax credit for the purchase and retention of Long Term Care Insurance.

In spite of our best efforts only one of our priority issues obtained sponsorship in both the House and Senate. One bill on Long Term Care Insurance was introduced in the House and two bills in the Senate. The three bills had different dollar amounts and effective dates. We thank the sponsors for their support.

The importance of our efforts can not be minimized. In fiscal year 2012, State Medicaid nursing home expenditures are projected to total \$1.1 billion. One wonders at what billion-dollar level will the state legislators consider taking action on this issue. Right now, 29 states and the District of Columbia have recognized the need and allow annual tax credits, tax

deductions or both. Maryland is the only state with a one-time credit.

Thanks to Dick Strombotne, Bill Ferguson, Gary Roundtree, and Evelyn Kirby who testified on our various supported bills. These included changes to personal and corporate income taxes as well as other senior issues such as public financing of General Assembly elections.

Before and during the session the SLC reached out to other organizations for mutual support on legislation. The results were mixed as the state budget situation put a damper on the usual enthusiasm of many groups. The conventional thinking was that any bills that cost money would not have a chance for success. I will report the result of our legislative efforts at the next Federation meeting.

I hope you will consider making a contribution to MD PAC since this is one avenue to make NARFE better known to our legislators. Your contribution to MD PAC will enable chapter and SLC members to attend events, meet office holders and members of other interested groups, and afford opportunities to gain mutual support for our desired legislation.

PROGRAMS

April 21 Elder Care Attorney, local columnist, and author Jacqueline Byrd — who also is a member of Chapter 1747 — will update us on any/all new information we need and answer all our questions on legal issues pertaining to seniors.

May 19 Highlights: Nominations/Election of Chapter Officers for the 2011–2013 term; special guest speaker Ted Jensen, president of the Maryland Federation of Chapters; and more.

CHAPTER 1747 BUDGET REPORT

Balance on: February 1, 2011	\$3521.84
Receipts:	545.28
Disbursements:	226.06
Balance on: February 28, 2011	\$3841.06

In the March 2011 Newsletter, the December 31st balance should have been \$3472.48, not the \$34772.48. The January 31st balance should be \$3521.84. We are strengthening our proofreading function to ensure we catch such typesetting errors in the future.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Melody Kebe

Maxine Sharpe

Yes, the Membership Report from national NARFE for February 2011 wasn’t good. As you can see, we gained only two new members, one of whom was signed up by a chapter mem-



Installation of Officers Luncheon

Thursday, June 16, 2011

Blue Dolphin Seafood Bar & Grill

1166 Route 3 South, Gambrills, MD

Social/Cash Bar: 11:30 AM; Lunch: Noon

Entrée Choices

Broiled Crab Cake
Chicken Marsala
Jr. Cut New York Strip Steak
Vegetarian Meal (available on request)

Includes: Salad, Baked Potato, String Beans, Bread and Butter

Plus: Iced Tea, Coffee, or Hot Tea and Dessert

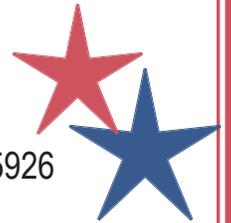
Sign up at the **April 21** or **May 19** Membership Meeting
Or call Bob Cullen, 301-262-4783 or Lillie Watson, 301-262-5926
to make reservations no later than Friday, June 10th.

Program

Guest Speaker: NARFE Region II Vice President Ron Bowers
Installation of 2011-2013 Officers
Door Prize Drawings

Cost: \$23.50

Make checks payable to NARFE Chapter 1747; and write your entrée choice on your check.



ber. However, the report did include five reinstatements, which helped a bit, but not much.

National NARFE dropped 13 members for non-payment of dues, and sent "second notices" to 24 members. We will be contacting those 37 members to ask them to please pay their dues before they are dropped next month or encourage them to be reinstated.

To members out there at home: You can help! Our new "Calling Committee" needs some help. If you're interested in making some calls to those 37 whom we don't want to lose, contact President Campbell or Membership Chair Lillie Watson. It doesn't take much time or effort; and a call from a member who knows the benefits of belonging to the only organization that fights to protect the earned retirement benefits of federal retirees delivers the most convincing message. So call us first and we'll give you the info so you can call our "drops" and "soon-to-be drops."

Note: For the Federal Legislation Report, visit our website, www.NARFE1747.org.

DAYS TO REMEMBER

- April 1 – April Fools Day
- April 17 – Palm Sunday
- April 18 – Last day to file Income Tax Returns
- April 18 – Passover (begins at sundown)
- April 22 – Good Friday
- April 24 – Easter Sunday
- April 25 – Last Day of Passover
- 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
Interim 1st Vice President	Lee Tuveson	301-262-3164	ltuveson@verizon.net
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	Lee Tuveson	301-262-3164	ltuveson@verizon.net
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, April 21, 2011
Jacqueline Byrd, Elder Care Attorney