



# NARFE NEWSLETTER

GREATER BOWIE-CROFTON AREA

CHAPTER 1747

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

Volume 31, No. 9

www.NARFE1747.org

May 2011

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS** are held at Kenhill Center, the old 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, May 19, 2011–2013 term elections and Ted Jensen, president, Maryland Federation of Chapters., **at the OLD Bowie City Hall, now called the Kenhill Center, in the Multi-Purpose Room.**
- ❖ *General Meeting.* Thursday, June 16, 11:30 Social; 12:00 Lunch; Installation Lunch, The Blue Dolphin. (See Page 3.)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Dorothy Campbell*

### Protect America's Heartbeat

This newsletter went to press in late April, just before the MD–Federation's 2011 Convention, so you'll have to read about the convention in the June issue. This lets me beat the drum for the bold, exciting and innovative project NARFE has instituted to fight the drastic proposed cuts that target the pay, health and retirement benefits of active and retired federal workers.

**Protect America's Heartbeat** is NARFE's national proactive/interactive campaign to educate Congress and the public on the undeserved and unfair attacks on those who were, and are, America's heartbeat. Yes, that's you and me and the millions of others who kept/keep our country going: workers from east, west, north and south. Workers in the largest metropolitan areas to the smallest towns and villages. Workers with job titles from A to Z. Workers underground, in the air, in space. Workers who provide mail services, care for veterans, protect everything we consume, process Social Security checks, preserve our natural resources, and perform many, many more tasks of vital importance to all Americans. All these workers, past and present, have been/are dedicated workers – and deserve the respect and support of Americans, not derision, nor scorn, nor disparate treatment.

### What's Really at Stake

We all know that over the years, there were always some who attempted to make us the scapegoats for whatever ailed the country; we were the workers on whose backs they wanted to balance budgets and pay down deficits. We were easy targets, they believed. And they still do. Today, with our country's economic situation in dire need of a fix, an even higher-than-ever number of elected officials have whipped the general public into a frenzy with their rhetoric and barbs — but federal workers (and now all public workers) are the undeserving targets of those hostile attacks.

Yes, we know our country has problems, and we're willing to do our share to help, but we didn't cause the problems and shouldn't and mustn't be the only ones expected to pay for them. It's not right, and it's not fair. Especially when there is more at stake from cuts — like reductions in critical services, increased unemployment, and damage to state and local economies.

NARFE knows this. That's why it began this national campaign to fight cuts in jobs and pay and benefits. And it's the best way to dispel the myths that the public is being led to believe about federal workers.

### The Bottom Line: What We Can Do

We can protect America's heartbeat several ways. First, all NARFE members must support the reduction or elimination of some or all of the proposed cuts. We also must activate and encourage others (non–members, family members, friends and neighbors) to join the Protect America's Heartbeat campaign. And we must all share in presenting a positive image of federal workers.

We must reach our Members of Congress (and their key staff) as well as the general public. They need to be shown positive images that dispel the negative ones that our opponents are broadcasting. We must be vocal in our opposition. We can't sit back and hope that others will fight our battle for us. We must be in the forefront of this battle.

We must attend town hall meetings and speak up. We must write: to our legislators, to our newspapers and on-line. We must “tell our stories” — why we retirees devoted long years to our jobs and, for active workers, why they’re doing their jobs today. We must show our concern and dedication to making America a better place for all. And yes, we should lead, but we should not do this alone. We must seek support from other workers, other organizations; we must build coalitions because numbers really do count.

### **In Chapter 1747, the Beat Will Go on!**

Protect America’s Heartbeat is targeted at 10 states; Maryland was chosen because of our great number of federal workers/retirees and Members of Congress in key committees that affect us. Therefore, all Maryland chapters have been asked to name a “Chapter Campaign Captain” who will solicit and collect personal short stories from chapter members. Our “Captain” will encourage members to publicize not only the contributions of federal workers but also the need for America to stand with us in our opposition to being singled out for unfair treatment. As soon as our chapter’s Captain has been selected, he/she will be asking all chapter members to take part in this critical undertaking — and I urge you to participate.

In the meantime, please read more about **Protect America’s Heartbeat** in the April 2011 NARFE magazine (pp.22–23), check out [www.NARFE.org](http://www.NARFE.org), or go directly to [www.ProtectAmericasHeartbeat.org](http://www.ProtectAmericasHeartbeat.org) and “tell your story.”

NARFE has given us a powerful weapon with which we can fight the war being waged against federal workers and retirees — and we must use it!

## **FEDERAL LEGISLATION**

*Joseph Young*

### **2011 Budget Cuts**

The \$38 billion in spending cuts agreed to on Friday, April 18, 2011 by President Obama and congressional leaders are spread over an array of domestic programs throughout the Federal government. The budget compromise that averted a government shutdown represents one of the biggest reductions in spending since World War II. On Thursday, April 14, 2011, the House and Senate approved the bill with bipartisan support. President Obama signed the bill Friday, April 15, 2011. The bill will fund the government through the rest of fiscal 2011, which ends September 30, 2011. On Tuesday, April 12, 2011, the scope and reach of the spending cuts became clear when the Appropriations Committee introduced a 459 page bill that puts the compromise into legislative language.

Some of the following departments and agencies that will feel the pain of the budget cuts as reported by the *Washington Post*:

### **State Department**

The State Department would take an \$8 billion reduction in funding, much of it in cuts to foreign aid. The department’s Economic Support Fund would be the biggest loser. Economic Support Fund plays a key role in supporting fragile governments from South Asia to Africa.

### **Education Department**

The Education Department would suffer modest cuts to several department initiatives, leaving overall funding at \$1.3 billion less than last year. The bill would preserve the Pell Grant Program, the largest source of need-based grants for college students.

### **Labor Department**

The Labor Department would lose \$870 million for job creation and training programs, community college curriculums for dislocated workers and a fund that aims to prepare workers for green jobs.

### **Housing and Urban Development**

HUD would lose \$942 million from the Community Development Fund, which includes block grants designed to help rehabilitate housing and invest in primarily low-income neighborhoods. The Public Housing Capital Fund would lose \$456 million. This fund is used to maintain and repair everything from roofs to boilers. The Hope VI Program would lose \$100 million. These funds are used to revamp severely distressed public housing and replace it with mixed-income communities.

### **Environmental Protection Agency**

EPA would lose \$1.35 billion, which represents approximately 15 percent of EPA’s budget, greatly reducing its ability to provide funding to states to reduce water pollution. Under the final legislation, the EPA should be able to move forward with plans to regulate greenhouse gas pollution at major power plants and other sources, and to enforce pollution restrictions as it relates to the Chesapeake Bay.

## **STATE LEGISLATION**

*Ed Bice*

### **Actions on Legislative Issues**

The General Assembly adjourned on April 11th. Bills that the State Legislative Committee(SLC) supported and testified on were heard in the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee. Chairs of both bodies did not allow the bills to be voted on with one exception; HB 622 sponsored by Delegate Krebs titled Fairness in Taxation for Retirees Act. The

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bill would treat IRAs more favorably under Maryland tax code. The House committee gave an unfavorable report by a 16-7 vote.

### Looking Forward

During the summer the SLC will review the actions of the General Assembly in the 2011 session and review our legislative objectives.

Those of us who have testified on our bills have stressed that for economic, social, and cultural reasons Maryland needs to create an environment which will encourage seniors to stay in this state.

We need to make the above factors the foundation for future legislative priorities by refocusing our efforts and strategy. Issues such as what concerns are important to Maryland's seniors, the development of a strategic plan, how we get our message out to other groups, legislators, and the public, and what kind of studies have been done on the impact of MD's seniors on the state's economy are a few of the areas to be explored in the coming months.



# 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

### 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.*

Sign up at the **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.**

## OUR "ACTIVE" CONNECTION

If you're one of our growing number of "active" members (still working for a federal agency) this new column's especially for you. In it you'll find brief items of special interest to you, plus references to more detailed info you can find in NARFE magazine and NARFE's online publications. And if you'd like to provide information for this column, please e-mail it to: [ltuveson@verizon.net](mailto:ltuveson@verizon.net).

### Sign up for LTC Insurance in Special Open Season

If you have been thinking about investing in Long-Term Care (LTC) insurance, now is the time to do something about it. Open Season for federal employees will run until June 14; applying now offers you an abbreviated application/underwriting process.

Contact your agency benefits officer for more information and/or obtain an application online at [www.LTCFEDS.com/apply](http://www.LTCFEDS.com/apply).

### More and More, NARFE's Become More Accessible!

Have you visited [www.NARFE.org](http://www.NARFE.org) lately? If you have, you've surely found that though the national organization is 90 years old, it's now moved into the information age, and practically everything you need to know about NARFE and its activities can be found online. And if you haven't, please check it out today. Then check out your chapter at [www.NARFE1747.org](http://www.NARFE1747.org) and find out what we're up to!

## CHAPTER 1747 BUDGET REPORT

Balance on: March 1, 2011	\$3841.06
Receipts:	479.64
Disbursements:	873.27
Balance on: March 31, 2011	\$3447.43

## DAYS TO REMEMBER

- May 8 – Mother's Day
- May 12 – Armed Forces Day
- May 30 – Memorial Day

### 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.

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## 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, May 19, 2011**  
**2009-2011 Chapter Elections**

**Speaker: Ted Jensen, president, Maryland Federation of Chapters**  
**Meeting is in the OLD CITY HALL Multi-Purpose Room.**