



NARFE NEWSLETTER

GREATER BOWIE-CROFTON AREA

CHAPTER 1747

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

Volume 31, No. 10

www.NARFE1747.org

June 2011

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS are held at Kenhill Center (old Bowie City Hall) 2614 Kenhill Drive, Bowie on the third Thursday of the month at 10:00 AM in Conference Room 204 except in July and August. 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

- ❖ *Installation Luncheon* Thursday, June 16, 2011 at the Blue Dolphin Seafood Bar and Grill, 1166 Route 3 South, Gambrills, Md., Social/Cash Bar: 11:30; Lunch 12: noon.
- ❖ *General Meeting* Thursday, September 15, 2011.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dorothy Campbell

A Memorable, Historic Convention

Although the 2011 Federation's Convention is over, its memory lingers on. While I'm trying to forget all the work that went into it, I won't forget the wondrous sight of so many Chapter 1747 members everywhere. Before the convention. During the convention. So many of you were involved and that's why it was a success. We were great hosts and our efforts paid off.

I'm most grateful to Tina Bell, Dorothy and Ed Bice, Jackie Calloway, Mary Catloth, Louise Cole, Anne and Bob Cullen, Maria Francer, Frank Figlozzi, Howard "Flash" Gordon, Dale Grant, Evelyn and Fred Harris, Joan and Bill Kaczor, Ruth Kluth, Jerry Kursban, Tom Lee, Mary Lewis, Nampeo McKenney, Faye Miner, Donna Miner, Luz Naval, Tom Page, Bill Park, Carter and Wayne Rardon, Judi Schmidt, Chiquitta Thomas, Regina Thompson, Lee Tuveson, Dorothy Van Doren, Lillie Watson, Jacqueline Wilson, and Mary and Joe Young. Some of the above contributed their time and efforts before and during the convention, others worked one or both days at the convention, most served as attentive delegates and a few only attended the banquet. However, whatever they did was greatly appreciated because it contributed to the convention's overall success.

A Common Theme: Fighting Foes

As to the convention, the highlights for me were the speakers: Paul Carew, NARFE National Vice President, and Julie Tagen,



On May 19, with MD-Federation President Ted Jensen present, the officers above were reelected/elected to serve for two years: L to R: Bob Cullen, treasurer; Lillie Watson, 2nd vice president; Jensen; Dorothy Campbell, president; Lee Tuveson, 1st vice president; Chiquitta Thomas, secretary. Unavailable for photo, Louise Cole, assistant treasurer.

Asst. Director, Legislative Dept. and Bill Wasserman, President, M+R Strategic Services; they all addressed "Protect America's Heartbeat," the exciting new program specially designed to fight the attacks on federal workers and retirees. Carew, who was present both days, also addressed new NARFE membership/recruitment incentives and NARFE's future.

AFGE President John Gage updated attendees on how his/other unions are fighting the attacks too. Gage's union represents over 600,000 federal workers nationwide.

Ian Kremer, Advocacy and Outreach Director for the Alzheimer's Association, described a world without Alzheimer's and complemented NARFE on its support for research. And Rebecca Miller, Outreach Coordinator for MD/Relay, told us of a wonderful telecommunications program available to deaf/hearing-impaired and low-vision people in Maryland. (We're inviting her to a meeting so we can learn more about this special service that is free for most people.)

Taking Care of Business/Highlights

Business items on the agenda were dispatched expeditiously: the election of Federation officers (the five incumbents were re-

turned to office without opposition); the one and only resolution was handled easily; and reports and updates on a variety of issues were given by Federation officers, committee chairs and Region II VP Ron Bowers.

The Chapter Presidents' Breakfast was a highlight, as was Monday night's banquet. Ten commercial exhibitors informed attendees of their services and handed out "goodies." NARFE tables educated too, raised money for good causes (especially NARFE's Disaster Fund and Alzheimer's research), and many Chapter delegates won door prizes during the two days.

Where the 2013 Federation Convention will take place is still to be determined; but Bowie is definitely in the running. To those who helped make this convention a success; you far surpassed the expectations of those who believed our chapter would come through. And as for those who didn't think we could do it — they'll never say that again. And if we get tapped to host another convention, we'll be ready. And if we don't, we can give assistance to another host chapter.

Reserve Your Place at the June Luncheon

There's still time to sign up for the June Installation of Chapter Officers' Luncheon at the Blue Dolphin. The place is great, the food is delicious, the speeches will be short (I promise) plus there also will be several surprises/door prizes. So call today and reserve your place at a table. *See page 3 for details.*

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Joseph Young

Federal Pensions Are Targeted

The Federal Pension System is a key target in negotiations between the White House and congressional leaders looking to control the exploding national debt.

Republicans who generally believe the Federal Pension System is too generous are proposing to save more than \$20 billion over ten years by requiring the civilian workforce to contribute more toward their retirement, a plan that would effectively impose a 5 percent pay cut on a workforce that is more than 2 million strong. The President's bipartisan fiscal commission has also endorsed the idea, calling the Federal System "out of line with the private sector".

Administration officials have now expressed an interest in raising the amount that Federal employees pay into their pensions. However, the administration's contribution requirement would not be as high as the GOP proposal and probably would not apply to all employees in the Federal workforce, according to people in both parties familiar with the discussions.

If a compromise plan to control Federal borrowing is adopted, the proposal will test the resolve of local lawmakers, especially Democrats, by forcing them to choose between debt reduction and the interests of the public-sector workers who have come under fire

from Republicans in Washington and several state capitals.

Civil service advocates vow a fierce fight, arguing that the idea is driven more by partisan ideology than fiscal responsibility.

"There's a not-so-hidden agenda to go after Federal workers and the public employee unions that represent them. And we've seen this across the country, whether in Wisconsin or in the Federal government", said Rep. Gerald E. Connolly (D), a fiscal conservative who represent 60,000 Federal employees in Northern Virginia.

Even some Republicans, such as Rep. Frank Wolf (R-Va.) are not pleased with the House pension proposal. As he cast a vote for the GOP budget blueprint, he said "I regret that the proposal seeks to make government service an unattractive career choice," in part "by changing retirement plans".

STATE LEGISLATION

Ed Bice

A Tribute To Leadership

Since its founding in 1981, Chapter 1747 has been a leader in the enactment of senior legislation in Maryland. The early activists were in the forefront of the enactment of legislation that brought the concept of pension exclusion into the Maryland Tax Code.

May brought the sad news of the death of Harold Gross. He had a distinguished 32-year career at the Department of Agriculture and was a long time member of our chapter and served as president from January 1985 to July 1986.

He was a successful advocate for state legislation addressing the issues of Maryland's senior population by seeking coalitions with like-minded organizations. NARFE and other groups formed the United Seniors of Maryland over 30 years ago; today it has over 80 member organizations.

Harold was among those who successfully pushed for the passage of Maryland's Homestead Protection Act, which limits the percentage of escalation of property taxes on homeowners in Maryland.

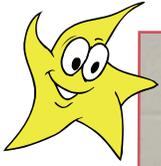
He was a former member of the State Legislative Committee and served terms as the vice chair and chair of the committee.

I pay grateful tribute to Harold and the other early leaders of the Maryland Federation of Chapters who by their tireless and enthusiastic efforts secured passage of legislation which benefited yesterday's, today's and future Maryland seniors.



The Annual CareFirst Blue Cross Blue Shield Distinguished Annuitant Award was presented to Bob Cullen at the May general meeting. Pictured from left are Jennifer Malave, Blue Cross Blue Shield representative, Bob Cullen, and Anne Cullen.

**“R” for Calvin and Virginia Dorn
Still Active After All These Years**



Back in October 1980, Calvin Dorn was listed on Chapter 1747’s Charter as a founding member. But this wasn’t his earliest association with NARFE; he had already joined NARFE and the Prince George’s County Chapter in 1978, was transferred to another chapter, then finally became involved in the formation of Chapter 1747. And all that was years before he retired from the Customs Service.

When retirement enabled him to devote time to NARFE, Calvin became active, serving six years as treasurer/assistant treasurer of Chapter 1747. Always concerned about the chapter’s finances, he has been auditing the treasurer’s books annually for many years to assure our financial records are in order.

Calvin is our only charter member who attends meetings and other events; he’s the only one still active. And accompanying him always is the only member he claims he ever recruited, his wife Ginny. For their years of dedication and steadfast loyalty to our Chapter, we are pleased and proud to award an “R” for Recognition to Calvin and Ginny Dorn. You’ve both earned it, and our appreciation as well.

CHAPTER 1747 BUDGET REPORT

Balance on: April 1, 2011	\$3447.43
Receipts:	500.44
Disbursements:	232.73
Balance on: April 30, 2011	\$3715.14

CONDOLENCES

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

Harold Gross (*charter member, former Chapter president*)

William Miller

Richard P. Nalesnik

Will you see yourself at the May Convention?
Check our website, www.NARFE1747.org,
for May 2011 MD-Federation Convention photos.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

When we think of what Spring brings, we think of warm weather and lots of growing things. In Chapter 1747, Spring has brought a sunnier outlook and a growing membership.

National NARFE’s March/April membership reports showed 13 new members and 13 reinstatements – a big improvement over previous months. We hope to see you at our meetings when they resume in September after our July/August break. Our meetings and guest speakers are always interesting, informative and even entertaining, and attending meetings is the best way to get the most out of your membership.

James E. Boyd
Sheila A. Boyd
Patricia J. Covington
Keirston E. Daniel
Lee N. Franklin
Joann Geary
Joseph A. Holmes

Thomas A. McMahon
Irmgard H. Morgan
Janet Piper
Sandra H. Ragsdale
Dolores Saars
Toni Walls

DAYS TO REMEMBER

- June 14 – Flag Day
- June 19 – Father’s Day
- July 4 – Independence Day
- August – Grass Roots Advocacy Month

Don’t Forget Lunch!
The Annual Installation of Officers Luncheon is Thursday, June 16, 2011 at the Blue Dolphin Seafood Bar and Grill, 1166 Route 3 South, Gambrills, MD , Social/Cash Bar: 11:30; Lunch: noon.
Call Bob Cullen, 301-262-4783 or Lillie Watson, 301-262-5926 to make reservations no later than **Friday, June 10th.**

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. 31, No. 10
Dues payments, gifts, and contributions to NARFE are not deductible as Charitable Contributions for income tax purposes.

CHAPTER BOARD

Officers

President	Dorothy Campbell	301-464-6372	Dcbowie@aol.com
1st Vice President	Lee Tuveson	301-262-3164	ltuveson@verizon.net
2nd Vice President	Lillie Watson	301-262-5926	lwatson16@hotmail.com
Secretary	Chiquitta Thomas	301-805-4108	c_thomas106@verizon.net
Assistant Secretary	Jacqueline Wilson		miss.JackieV@aol.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
Sergeant-at-Arms	Peter Hill	301-249-9143	pmkthill1@msn.com
State Legislation	Ed Bice	301-464-3748	DE3637@verizon.net
Ways & Means	Dorothy 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 Galliant	301-262-7261	
	Tom Page	301-262-3418	
Sunshine	Marjorie Laios	301-262-1566	

***Thursday, June 19, 2011: Installation of Officers Luncheon
Blue Dolphin Seafood Bar and Grill***

Will we see you in September?

(Check our newsletter or website for where the meeting will be held.)