



# NARFE NEWSLETTER

GREATER BOWIE-CROFTON AREA CHAPTER 1747

**National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association**

Volume 32 No. 10

[www.NARFE1747.org](http://www.NARFE1747.org)

June 2012

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**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS** are held at the Bowie Senior Center, 14900 Health Center Drive, Bowie, 20716 in Rooms #2-4. Meeting dates are the third Thursday of the month at 10:00 AM except in July and August. There is never a charge to attend and all meetings are open to the public. Please check your current newsletter for any changes.

**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, June 21. Biennial Picnic, Thursday, June 21, 2012 . 11:30 AM, East Pavilion, Allen Pond Park, Bowie.

❖ **General Meeting:** Thursday, September 20. Jane Huang, Ameriprise Financial Group.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*DOROTHY CAMPBELL*

### June 21 Picnic: A Great Year's End

Our June 21 picnic ends the NARFE calendar year, and in our chapter, we can look back on an exciting, busy year, full of great programs and special events. The picnic is a great way to end the year, so see page 3 for the menu and how to make and pay for your reservation by June 18.

Thanks to all the members who attended the MD Federation Mini-Convention on April 30-May 1. Special thanks to those who helped with registration and other tables, and as sergeants-at-arms. All reports I heard from our attendees ran from "very good" to "great," high marks were given to House Rep. John

Sarbanes and special guests Bill "Wild Bill" Broadwater, an original Tuskegee Airman and his "Wingman" Byron Morris. Everyone learned a lot, and a lucky few even won door prizes. In attendance: Dorothy and Ed Bice, Louise Cole, Maria Francer, Flash Gordon, Dale Grant, Ken Kelley, Jerry Kursban, Marjorie Laios, Nampeo McKenney, Jim Merna, Donna Minner, Luz Naval, Bill Park, Karen Richey, Chiquitta Thomas, Lee Tuveson, Lillie Watson and yours truly. Registered but unable to attend for medical reasons: Jack Calloway and Shirley DeJavanne.

I hope that those who enjoyed this mini-convention have already marked their calendars for next year's MD Federation Convention. It'll be on April 29-May 1, 2013 in Ocean City at the Carousel Hotel. And to the rest of you: Please mark your calendars too. We've broken attendance records at Federation events in Bowie; now let's see if we can do the same in Ocean City. Just like the 2011 convention, next year's will be a mix of business and pleasure, elections and exciting speakers, a banquet and the chance to interact with members of all the Maryland chapters.

### Got a Program Suggestion? Let Us Know!

While we don't hold membership meetings in July and August, your chapter officers meet, primarily to map out plans for each coming year. Though we ordinarily compile the list of speakers

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## BC/BS Awards, Present and Past

Celebrating this year's CareFirst Blue Cross Blue Shield's Annual Distinguished Annuitant Award ceremony are seven past winners, l. to r.: Dorothy Campbell, Jennifer Malave, BC/BS rep.; Al Golato; Ed Bice; Ruth Kluth; Jack Calloway; Bob Cullen; and Tom Page. Campbell accepted the award for this year's winner, Newsletter Editor Jessica Forman, who was not present.



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ourselves, I encourage you to make suggestions for speakers and/or topics for upcoming meetings. After all, it is your chapter, and your input is always welcomed. You could suggest new speakers/topics, or those we've had before. Contact our program chair or any officer, or send the information to our PO box or website. Or you can drop in on our executive board meetings; they're held on the first Thursday of every month in Room 125 at the Bowie Senior Center, 10 a.m.—noon.

### **Lack of Interest Kills Our Alzheimer's Walk**

At a recent membership meeting, I announced that I was exploring the possibility of our chapter hosting an Alzheimer's Walk in September. Regretfully, I now must inform you that, due to a lack of volunteers for the committee needed to plan and run all elements of it, we will not host a Walk. But we might cohost with another group seeking to set up a Bowie Walk. Therefore, as soon as information is available about any Alzheimer's Association Walks in our area (last year the closest was in D.C.), we will let you know. For the newest NARFE members, and even some long-time members—over the years NARFE members have raised \$9,634,874 to find a cure for this disease that affects 1 in 8 of us and is the 6th leading cause of death in the U.S.

### **Raffle for Bowie Theatre Tickets**

Until the winning ticket for our Bowie Theatre Tickets raffle is drawn at our June 21 Picnic – you still have the opportunity to purchase tickets to win! The winner will be awarded a certificate good for two season tickets (four plays) for two people at the Bowie Playhouse. The play schedule runs from July 2012—March 2013 and the winner will have their choice of date and performance for each play. The plays are: Love, Sex and the I.R.S.; Dracula; Daddy's Dyin', Who's Got the Will?' and In the Heat of the Night.

It's a really good deal. The winning package is worth about \$145, and all proceeds of the raffle go into Chapter 1747's treasury. The tickets were donated to us by the Bowie Community Theatre. Raffle tickets are \$3.00 each or 2 for \$5. I've bought my raffle tickets; have you bought yours?

### **Get-Well Wishes and Condolences**

Listed on page 4 as "Sunshine" coordinator is Marjorie Laios; she sends get-well cards to ill and hospitalized chapter members and condolence cards to the families of deceased members. But she can't send cards unless she's notified that such cards need to be sent. You can also call or e-mail me the information.

FYI: Another reason to let the chapter know of a member's death: When a married NARFE member dies, the deceased member's membership can be transferred to their surviving spouse. In addition, our Chapter Service Officers are available to assist surviving spouses with dealing with OPM, CSRS, FERS, Social Security and other issues pertaining to retirement benefits.

## **FEDERAL LEGISLATION**

*JOSEPH YOUNG*

On May 10, 2012, the House passed a Republican budget bill by a vote of 218—199 that would hike federal employees' pension contributions.

The American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) and NARFE urged all House members to oppose the increases in the bill. "The proposal essentially would impose a 5 percent payroll tax on federal employees, which would cost them \$83 billion over 10 years without any corresponding increase in retirement benefits," NARFE said in a May 8 letter sent to all 425 House members. It also would eliminate the annuity supplement for new employees under FERS who retire before age 62. "Although federal employees make up less than 2 percent of the nation's workforce, this bill would take more than 30 percent of an estimated \$261 billion in spending reductions from their pockets."

The 2012 Sequester Replacement Reconciliation Act proposed by Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., seeks to shift \$98 billion in sequestration budget cuts scheduled to take effect in January away from defense and other social programs. As part of the plan to avoid those cuts, including about \$55 billion in defense cuts, Ryan's bill would phase in the 5 percent contribution hikes to both FERS and CSRS employees contributing 12 percent over five years.

The bill would effectively cut federal employees' pay by 5 percent; FERS employees would contribute 5.8 percent and CSRS employees 12 percent each paycheck for their pensions.

NARFE said voting to cut federal employees' pay during Public Service Recognition Week was offensive and angering; AFGE called it "unconscionable." But Ryan said the cuts are vital to avoid hollowing out the nation's military. "Look, we all believe in a strong federal workforce. But workers in the private sector are being asked to share more equitably in the cost of their retirement benefits, and federal workers need to do the same."

Rep. Steny Hoyer, D-Md., denounced the bill, saying, it would make federal employees "second-class citizens." He said Republicans are wrong to keep cutting federal employee's pay and benefits while refusing to raise taxes on the wealthy or cut agriculture subsidies. "Federal employees are ready to participate in helping to bring down the deficit, but don't ask them to do it alone," Hoyer said. "Federal employees have already contributed \$75 billion to deficit reduction [a pay freeze/pension contribution increases for future employees]. No other working American has been asked to do that."

The bill would also require new federal employees hired after 2012 with fewer than five years of previous federal service to immediately pay 5.8 percent to the FERS plan. And for new employees hired in 2013, Ryan's bill would eliminate the FERS Social Security supplement, which is now paid to FERS employees who voluntarily retire before age 62.

Democratic lawmakers oppose the cuts, and say the bill will die in the Senate. But even if it does, Hoyer fears the proposals could be revived in the coming months and attached to a bill Democrats can't refuse.

## STATE LEGISLATION

Ed BICE

### Maryland's 2012 Regular Session

The session ended April 9. The State Legislative Committee (SLC) had bills introduced to equalize the special exemption for those over age 65 or blind, and an annual tax credit for the payment of long-term care (LTC) insurance premiums starting in 2013. Our bills did not make it out of committee.

The only bright spot was increased support for the LTC bills. HB 343 had 47 sponsors/cosponsors and SB 35 had 13 sponsors/cosponsors. Additionally, bills supported by NARFE and other senior groups, such as combined reporting and expansion of pension income to include IRA withdrawals and other



Senator Doug Peters  
D-Dist. 23-A

retirement income, failed to gain favorable action.

In summary, the session was disappointing.

### 2012 Special Session

As expected, the Governor and legislative leaders agreed to convene a special session on May 14 to deal with revenue issues. I detailed the reasons for the session in the last newsletter.

The resulting actions of the 3-day session were: TAXES: A \$260 million tax package that raises income taxes by a quarter

of a percentage point for residents making more than \$100,000 a year. For joint filers, the higher rates start at \$150,000 taxable income. Personal deductions that six-figure earners can claim are also lowered. New rates are retroactive to January 1. OTHER ACTIONS: The package raises levies on commercial real estate deals, tobacco products, and death certificates.

The above tax increases combined with a move that the legislature approved to shift teacher pension costs to counties will close half of a \$1 billion gap that had been forecast for the rest of the decade.

Sen. Peters and Del. Hubbard attended our May 17 meeting to report on the Special Session's attempts to pass a budget.

**LOOK FOR**

Lee Tuveson's Active Employee  
Corner in September!



## Chapter 1747 Picnic Menu

Thursday, June 21, 11:30 AM, East Pavilion,  
Allen Pond Park, Bowie

Pulled Pork Sandwich,  
Bourbon Beef Brisket Sandwich,  
and 1/4 Barbequed Chicken

Potato Salad, Cole Slaw,  
Barbequed Baked Beans  
Rolls, Butter, Fruit Salad, Cake  
Water and a variety of sodas

**Cost: \$18.00**

Contact Lee Tuveson at 301-262-3164  
or E-Mail to [ltuveson@verizon.net](mailto:ltuveson@verizon.net)

Reservations **MUST** be made and **PAID FOR**  
by Monday, June 18

Catered by Adam's Ribs—Edgewater

## CHAPTER 1747 BUDGET REPORT

Balance on: April 1, 2012	\$3861.71
Receipts:	442.44
Disbursements:	473.20
Balance on: April 30, 2012	\$3830.95

## DAYS TO REMEMBER

May 14	Flag Day
May 17	Father's Day
July 4	Independence 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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Dues payments, gifts, and contributions to NARFE are not deductible as Charitable Contributions for income tax purposes.

## CHAPTER BOARD

### Officers

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### Activity Coordinators

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	Louise Cole (Odenton)	410-672-6528	col9135@aol.com
	Donna Minner (Crofton)	410-721-9799	
Meeting Sign-In/Greeter	F. Miner and D. Evans		
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NARFE-PAC	Ed Bice	301-464-3748	DE3637@verizon.net
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	Dave Galliard	301-262-7261	
	Tom Page	301-262-3418	
Sunshine	Marjorie Laios	301-262-1566	

Thursday, June 21.

Biennial Picnic—Allen Pond Park, Bowie

Thursday, September 20.

Strategies for Planning/Managing Your Money