



NARFE NEWSLETTER

GREATER BOWIE-CROFTON AREA CHAPTER 1747

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

Volume 33 No.9

www.NARFE1747.org

November 2012

www.facebook.com/narfe1747

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, November 15. Health Plan Open Season "Health Fair." Reminder: Fair is at Kenhill Center, old Bowie City Hall, Multipurpose Room.

❖ **General Meeting:** Thursday, December 20. Holiday Luncheon at the Blue Dolphin. Details, page 3.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DOROTHY CAMPBELL

It's YOUR Chapter, It's YOUR Responsibility

I know that sometimes I must sound like a broken record at membership meetings or in our newsletter, when I repeat the same messages: we must focus on recruitment and retention, and more current members must become more active. But then I read newsletters from other chapters in Maryland (and even a few from out of state) and find that most of the other chapter presidents are saying the same things.

Yes, it's a widespread problem, and apparently, very few chapters have found easy solutions. When the subject is discussed both formally or informally at MD-Federation meetings, our comments and questions are similar: "How do YOU get members to

1747 Vets to Present Wreath on Nov. 11

Every year, Chapter 1747 veterans, along with representatives from other organizations, present a wreath in a moving ceremony at Veterans Park in Old Town Bowie. Anyone interested in attending should contact Sgt.-at-Arms (and former Marine) Peter Hill for more information. See contacts, page 4.

meetings? How do YOU get members to run for office?", and, of course, "How do YOU find new members?"

Many Hands Lighten the Load. . .

It's frustrating to me because I know there must be people on our membership list who can find a few hours a month to help our chapter. Yes, your officers, when elected or appointed, agreed to take on certain responsibilities, but many have to do far more than their share when others don't volunteer to work on committees, don't help with newsletter preparation/ mailing, don't help at information tables or participate in community events (like parades)—in other words, don't offer to take part in the many, varied activities/jobs that eventually, by default, wind up being done by your officers.

But don't get me wrong. Yes, over the years, we have had members step forward and help and that help is greatly appreciated. However, volunteers often sign on for limited periods, lose interest, move, or must tend to other obligations, leaving the necessary work to the officers until more volunteers come forward.

And yes, while officers knowingly take on certain responsibilities, they shouldn't have to wear several hats, and do more than their share. The success of the chapter is the responsibility of every dues-paying member—or, at least—it should be!

Check out the Help Wanted Ads Inside

So, if you can donate some time to YOUR chapter, let me or another officer know. It needn't be a lot of time, and many jobs can be shared. Right now we need a new Alzheimer's chair and committee members and a "Newsletter Crew." (See Help Wanted on page 2.) We can use additional help on the Ways & Means (Fundraising) Committee. We need another Service Officer. We need back-ups for our Legislative Committee chairs, and committee members, both State and Federal. We need members to attend events (see Veterans Day box, left). Yes, some of your officers have been performing these tasks and enjoying the fun jobs along with their regular duties—mainly because they've had no choice—but it really shouldn't be that way.

Continued on Page 2

As I have repeatedly said, and will emphasize again: "This is YOUR Chapter; it belongs to YOU and YOU should be helping to make it stronger and even better than it is now!"

Learn in November; Enjoy in December

Don't miss our Annual Health Plan Open Season Meeting (Health Fair) coming up on Thursday, November 15 at Kenhill Center, old Bowie City Hall. If you're retired, it's the best way to get your questions answered directly by HP reps from several plans.

And to enjoy a great meal with other Chapter 1747 members, come to our Annual Holiday Luncheon on Thursday, December 20. See page 3

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

JOSEPH YOUNG

Federal Annuities Will Rise Next Year

The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) was pleased to inform its members on October 16 that federal retirees will receive a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) to their civil service annuities beginning in January 2013. Retirees in the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) and the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) will receive a 1.7 percent increase to their annuities next year, the same increase given to Social Security recipients.

"We at NARFE are pleased to hear that retirees will receive some relief from the rising costs of everyday goods," commented NARFE President Joseph A. Beaudoin. "NARFE continues to support strong COLAs based on fair assessments of increases in consumer prices, including medical costs, to keep federal annuities in line with inflation."

To trigger a COLA for 2013, the average CPI-W for the months of July, August and September of 2012 needed to rise above the 2011 average for those same months. It did, by 1.66 percent, which results in a 1.7 percent COLA for federal annuities covered by both CSRS and FERS.

Under current law, COLAs for federal retirement annuities, as well as for military retiree annuities and Social Security payments, are determined in reference to the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W), which is calculated by economists and statisticians with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The CPI-W is the current index used for measuring increases in the prices of consumer goods throughout the economy. It includes prices on all consumer goods, including food and beverages, housing, clothing, transportation, medical care, recreation, education, communication, and more.

"This is welcome news for retirees who have seen the cost of living continue to increase over the past year," continued Beaudoin. "As Congress debates ways to avoid the 'fiscal cliff,' NARFE is prepared to oppose any changes to the COLA formula that would have an adverse effect on retirees."

HELP WANTED

3—5 members for a Newsletter Crew. Meet 2—3 hours monthly in Bowie, 2-month vacation in June & July. Easy work: seal, paste pre-printed labels on newsletters, place in trays. No experience necessary.*

1—2 members to mail newsletter. Can alternate taking trays of newsletters to P.O. Facility in Largo. No experience necessary, but a good job for postal retiree. One trip a month, vacation in June, July. Car required, mileage paid.*

2—3 members for Alzheimer's Chair/Committee. Meet as needed; handle current/develop new chapter fundraising activities for Alzheimer's Association. Report on activities to officers and membership.*

1 Service Officer. Work experience in Personnel or as Retirement Specialist (especially FERS) helpful; but not necessary. Work 2-3 hrs. at Bowie Senior Center one morning a month. OTJ training provided.†

* For more information or to volunteer for the newsletter or Alzheimer's openings, please contact President Campbell. †For more information about the Service Officer job, please contact one of the Service Officers listed on page 4.

STATE LEGISLATION

ED BICE

MD PAC, established four years ago, is the State Legislative Committee's Political Action Committee (PAC). The mission of our PAC is to support members of Maryland's General Assembly who through words and actions support SLC legislation.

We receive invitations to fundraisers by regular mail and email. When an invitation is received, MD PAC contacts the chapter president in the appropriate legislative district. The president responds by indicating if the legislator has or has not shown support for our issues in the recent past. PAC also requests that chapter members attend the event. If the reply is positive, a five-member group makes the final decision on our support and level of support.

Having a chapter member attend the event is very important as the member gets to meet the legislator and his or her staff. Additionally, the event presents an opportunity to meet other officeholders, organization representatives and individuals to seek their support for common legislative objectives and future alliances.

State law requires that no fundraising events or requests for donations can take place during the 90-day General Assembly session which runs from mid-January to mid-April. Therefore, now is a busy time in the MD PAC world.

The present bank balance is \$4488. So far this year MD PAC has received \$1653.00 from 73 contributors. Eight expenditures in support of legislators have been made for a total of \$750. Under state guidelines, only individuals can contribute to a PAC. If you would like to help in our efforts as other chapter members have done, please send a check with Chapter 1747 on the memo line to David Roseman, Treasurer, 6 Thorburn Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20878-2621.

MD PAC thanks you for your help.

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Join us for a great time: **Great food! Great Company! Great Door Prizes!**
And a Special Report from Joe Young: *The Latest Info From Capitol Hill*

PLACE: Blue Dolphin Seafood Bar & Grill, 1166 Route 3 South, Gambrills, MD

DATE: Thursday, December 20, 2012

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

MENU: Choice of one entrée (to be made upon arrival at restaurant)

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

Includes: Salad, Baked Potato, String Beans, Bread
Plus: Iced Tea, Coffee, Hot Tea, Dessert

COST: \$24.00 (includes tax and tip)

Payable at sign-up at November 15 membership meeting, OR by mail **AFTER** making reservations with:

Bob Cullen, 301-262-4783, ba3537@aol.com OR Louise Cole, 410-672-6528, col9135@aol.com
Mail checks to: NARFE Chapter 1747, PO Box 504, Bowie, MD 20718

Please make all checks payable to: NARFE Chapter 1747; all payments must be made by Dec. 14.
Cancellation policy: **No refunds** will be made if reservations are not cancelled by Dec. 17.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Cathy Chagami

Thomas C. Hyland

While the Chapter only gained two new members last month, four members who had been dropped were reinstated. However, we did lose two members who transferred out of our chapter, and one who voluntarily cancelled his membership.

Taking the Right Road With Our MAP

The Chapter, beginning in 2013, will be instituting a new Membership Action Program (MAP) in January 2013 to boost our membership. You will be hearing more about MAP in upcoming issues of the newsletter, and at the January membership meeting. All members will be called upon to help with the Chapter's MAP, which will include specific ways to increase membership, as well as ways to increase our level of retention.

DAYS TO REMEMBER

November 4 Daylight Savings Time Ends
November 6 Election Day
November 11 Veterans Day
November 22 Thanksgiving Day

CONDOLENCES

The following chapter member passed away recently. Our prayers and sympathy go out to her family and friends.

Florence F. Keith

CHAPTER 1747 BUDGET REPORT

Balance on: September 1, 2012	\$4335.11
Receipts:	359.02
Disbursements:	1772.56
Balance on: August 31, 2012	\$2921.57

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. 33, No. 9

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	Lillie Watson	301-262-5926	lwatson16@hotmail.com
2nd Vice President	Vacant		
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	jessicafforman@gmail.com
Programs	Executive Board		
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
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	F. Miner and D. Evans		
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, November 15

Open Season Health Fair

Kenhill Center Multipurpose Room (old Bowie City Hall)