



# NARFE NEWSLETTER

GREATER BOWIE-CROFTON AREA CHAPTER 1747

**National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association**

Volume 33 No.4

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

December 2012

[www.facebook.com/narfe1747](http://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, December 20, Holiday Luncheon at the Blue Dolphin. Details, page 3.

❖ **General Meeting:** Thursday, January 17, at the Bowie Senior Center. Diane Polangin, Tax Tips for your 2012 Returns.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*DOROTHY CAMPBELL*

### 2012 Gets an 'A' for Action, Achievements

As 2012 draws to a close, it's good to know that for NARFE at all levels it was a busy year with many memorable "highs." Unfortunately, there were some "lows," mainly dealing with ever-decreasing membership and low participation/activism.

Nationally, one "high" was the national convention at which all four national/resident officers were re-elected to run the organization until the 2014 convention. And while the convention delegates failed to pass some important, necessary measures, we were given much worthwhile information about actions being taken to increase our declining membership. Stressed in Reno by national officers was their hiring of professionals who will provide much-needed marketing expertise to sell our organization to NARFE-eligible retirees/annuitants and to current workers.

In Reno, Region II national convention delegates elected Maryland's own Evelyn Kirby (then 1st VP, MD-Fed.) to serve

**Fresh out of gift ideas  
for federal workers and  
retirees? See page 3.**

as the 5-state region's vice president. I am looking forward to seeing her at a luncheon or meeting.

### In Maryland, 'A' Is for Advertising

One MD-Federation of Chapters highlight was its Mini-Convention April 30- May 1, held here in Bowie. Because of its location, a great many of our members attended the event; moreover they worked in many ways to make the convention a successful, well-coordinated one. The advertising "A" goes to the Federation's recent billboard ads program to increase recruitment of active members. In addition, the Federation deserves the thanks of all MD chapters for their other recruitment and retention efforts.

### Chapter 1747: 'A' Is for Activities

Locally, we had another busy year. As always, we participated in many community events such as parades and fairs in Bowie, Crofton and Odenton. Despite the heat, we enjoyed our biennial picnic. Twice we honored our veterans on their special days. Month after month, we had great speakers at our membership meetings; all were informative and some were entertaining as well. Anyone who missed out on any of them missed a lot. We started 2012 with tax info and continued with gardening, MD telecommunications services for deaf/blind people, personal/home safety, state legislation, financial planning, and learning about the value of old jewelry and coins.

Add to them our annual Open Season meeting with HP representatives and note the variety of programs we offer. We choose our programs to provide topics with broad appeal, featuring something for everyone. Note: We encourage all members to suggest topics for our meetings; we're always open for new ideas, new topics, new guest speakers. Contact us or put your suggestion in our new feature: a Suggestion Box that will be available at all meetings for your comments.

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## Updates on Next Year's Programs

Included in the September issue of our newsletter was a list of all programs from that month through June 2013. Please be aware that a couple of the meeting topics/guests on that list have changed. Although all changes are announced at meetings preceding the changed ones, the changes will appear in the newsletter you receive before each meeting if time permits. Note: Please check your newsletter when you receive it. In October, one member and her guest came to the meeting to hear a Social Security representative. Unfortunately, that program had been changed, but the member had not read her newsletter that had carried the notice of the topic change.



*Steve Gouterman, gemologist and owner of NovaGold, LLC, not only educated and entertained everyone about antique/estate jewelry and old coins, but appraised items brought in by members in October.*

Briefly, our revised January–June program schedule is:

**January:** Diane Polangin – Tax Tips for 2012

**February:** Diana Varela – Social Security/Medicare (rescheduled from 10/12)

**March:** Gene Sumi – Gardening Tips (rescheduled from 2/13)

**April:** Gloria Gaddy – Homeowners Insurance & Disasters

**May:** Report on the 2013 MD General Assembly Legislative Session

**June:** Chapter 1747 Installation of Officers Luncheon (site TBA); restaurant suggestions welcome

Please mark your calendars accordingly. As you can see, we continue to bring you a wide variety of topics and hope to see you at every meeting. Come alone, or bring others with you; many members have joined our chapter because they enjoyed our meetings. And a reminder: please keep in mind that all regular meetings, unless otherwise noted in the newsletter, will take place at the Bowie Senior Center.

## Thanks to Volunteers

I've got some catching up to do in this area, starting with the most recent: thanks to Denis Kelly, who answered my Help Wanted Ad in the November newsletter. Denis e-mailed me, saying he wanted to help out with the newsletter. Thanks to his help, officers won't regularly need to take extra time after our executive board meetings to seal and label newsletters. Note: I'd like to get more responses to the ads for help; there's always more work than volunteers to do it.

Thanks too, to Chiquitta Thomas, chapter secretary, for filling in to deliver the newsletter to the P.O. And even more thanks to Asst. Treasurer Louise Cole, for all the times she delivered it before Chiquitta took over. And thanks to Louise too, especially from me, for the great job she did moderating a panel discus-

sion, part of a training session on Public Relations which I presented at a recent MD-Federation "training day."

More specific thanks: To Maria Francer, who was Alzheimer's Committee chair for more than 10 years. To Ed Bice, who pitched in to present the Chapter's wreath at Bowie's annual Veterans Day commemoration when no one else was available.

Finally, my thanks to all the rest who do their (and others') jobs without getting any formal recognition; your assistance is greatly appreciated.

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## HP/Health Fair Draws Large Crowd



Tamika Anderson  
GEHA



David Levin  
APWU



Jennifer Malavé  
CareFirst BC/BS



*At our best-attended meeting of the year chapter members were able to interact with HP reps from four of the largest plans in the FEHBP—APWU, CareFirst BC/BS, GEHA, and Kaiser Permanente—and pick up other plan and health information from other sources. Most reps spoke, and all were kept busy at their tables, handing out literature and information to nearly 60 attendees. "All of our meetings should draw this size audience," said President Dorothy Campbell, "since all of our programs are equally worthwhile."*

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Amelia Jernigan**  
**Barry Johnson**  
**Diana Martone**

**Linda C. Mierzeski**  
**Sharron Sample**  
**Helga U. Taylor**

The good news is that we have six new members; we warmly welcome them and look forward to seeing them at meetings and other events.

The bad news is that we're still losing more members than we're gaining, mainly from non-renewals by members who pay their dues annually. To those members who pay annual dues: National NARFE, after sending several reminder notices, drops those who haven't responded for a period of about six months. The MD-Federation also sends letters to dropped members and our chapter contacts them too.

### D-W: A Win-Win Option for Retirees

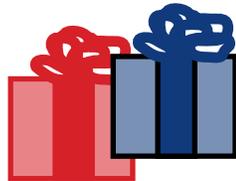
For those of you who are retired, merely forgetting to renew dues is easily remedied: retirees can opt for dues withholding (D-W). With D-W, your combined national and chapter dues will be deducted from your annuity checks over the course of a year. The benefits gained are many: dues are automatically paid, no time, effort or cost is spent for dues renewal and, even better, national NARFE gives you a discount of \$6.00 a year! You can't lose by choosing D-W. But wait; there's still more! If you opt for D-W now, the MD-Federation will reward you with a check for \$10! It's a win-win situation!

There's another option for those who'd rather not opt for D-W; at any time you can change from paying annual dues to paying multi-year dues, with discounted rates for both 2-year and 3-year plans.

Finally, NARFE offers life memberships as well, an option that favors younger members. Anyone wishing to know more about these dues payment options can contact the chapter, check out our website with its link to the national site, or see the information regularly published in NARFE national magazine.

It pays to belong to NARFE, and NARFE makes it easy to keep your dues current.

### Having Problems Choosing Holiday Gifts?



Don't know a NARFE-eligible relative, friend or good neighbor's sizes, but want to give them a gift for the holiday? No problem. Give the gift of NARFE membership.

Don't know the name/number of the chapter where your gift recipient lives? No problem. NARFE will include that info with their membership card.

NARFE membership is open to all civilian federal/postal retirees and annuitants, as well as active federal/postal workers and those who work for/retired from the District of Columbia government. Give a gift membership to an *active* employee, and you'll get an \$8 check from national NARFE.

## HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

*Spending a few hours with NARFE friends is a good way to end the year!*

**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 entrée (made upon arrival at restaurant)

Broiled Crab Cake                      Jr. Cut New York Strip Steak  
Chicken Marsala                        Vegetarian Meal (by request)  
*Plus:* Salad, Baked Potato, String Beans, Bread, Iced Tea,  
Coffee, Hot Tea, Dessert

**COST:** \$24.00 (includes tax and tip)

Payable 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.

## CHAPTER 1747 BUDGET REPORT

Balance on: October 1, 2012	\$2921.57
Receipts:	230.02
Disbursements:	317.40
Balance on: October 31, 2012	\$2834.19

## DAYS TO REMEMBER

December 8	First Night of Hannukah
December 16	Last Night of Hannukah
December 24	Christmas Eve
December 25	Christmas Day
December 31	New Years 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

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	Vacant		
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, December 20**  
**Annual Holiday Luncheon**  
**Blue Dolphin Seafood Bar & Grill**