



# NARFE NEWSLETTER

GREATER BOWIE-CROFTON AREA CHAPTER 1747

**National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association**

Volume 33 No.6

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

February 2013

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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, February 21, Bowie Senior Center. Diana Varela, Social Security and Medicare.

❖ **General Meeting:** Thursday, March 21, Bowie Senior Center. Gene Sumi, Homestead Gardens education director, Spring Gardening.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*DOROTHY CAMPBELL*

### 2013: A Year of Changes

If you're like me, you're still trying to remember to write 2013 instead of 2012, you're really happy we've not had to shovel snow yet, and you've already broken some resolutions. But I sincerely hope that you made those NARFE-related resolution I suggested in last month's newsletter—and will not break them—because they're good for both you and NARFE.

Why am I reminding you about NARFE resolutions? If you think it's because the simple act of becoming a more active participant in our organization is really important and well worth constant repetition—you're right. But there's another reason as well, one that's always included in my repeated reminders, particularly over the past year: it's that our biennial elections for chapter officers will be coming up soon and several current officers will not run for office again.

### Changes in Chapter Officers

At our January executive board meeting, we discussed the election that will take place at our May 16 general membership meeting. The Nominating Committee (which consists of Ed Bice and Bob Cullen) will conduct the elections; they will announce all candidates for the six elected offices: president, first

and second vice presidents, secretary, treasurer, and assistant treasurer. These candidates will be members who contacted the committee by phone, e-mail, on the form on page 3 of this and subsequent newsletters, or in person. Then Ed and Bob will open the floor for nominations: this will enable all members present who wish to nominate someone for an office, or to nominate themselves. After nominations are closed, Ed and Bob will conduct the election. I hope to see a large turnout for that meeting, and candidates for all offices.

The officers elected on May 16 will be sworn in at a luncheon on Thursday, June 20; their term of office begins on July 1, 2013 and ends June 30, 2015.

### Officers' Duties and Responsibilities

The duties and responsibilities of all officers are spelled out in the Chapter Constitution and By-laws, amended by a committee and accepted unanimously by the membership in September 2009. That version of the chapter's constitution and by-laws can be found on our website: [NARFE1747.org](http://NARFE1747.org). For those without Internet access, or those preferring a hard copy, the constitution/by-laws will be available at membership meetings between now and May, and upon request.

Please keep in mind that to be eligible to run for, hold office, and vote, you must be both a national NARFE and Chapter 1747 member in good standing—so be sure that your dues are current.

### Welcome the Changes

Also please keep in mind that the organization does not and cannot run itself; it takes people to perform all the necessary duties and responsibilities to keep it alive and functioning. And keep in mind that we elect our officers for two-year terms—not for life! So that when officers announce that they do not wish to continue or cannot continue to serve as officers after serving for two or three or more terms, we all need to accept their deci-

Continued on Page 2

sions, and either step forward and volunteer to take their places or seek out and nominate other members who are willing to take on new, more active roles in the chapter. That's the way an organization should work. New officers bring new, fresh ideas and energy to the chapter—and long-time, retiring (and tired) officers get a well-deserved break. Or, they get—as I just read in another Maryland chapter newsletter farewell to an officer—“time to do nothing for a while.”

### **Time to Do Nothing (or at Least, a Lot Less NARFE)**

Some “time to do nothing” is something to which I'm looking forward. In a few months, I will have served on the Chapter 1747 Executive Board for 10 years, having been appointed Public Relations chair by then-President Maria Ritzman at my first membership meeting—the day I actually joined NARFE! Shortly after that I became membership chair and later became 2nd, and later still, 1st vice president. On July 1, 2009, I became president. I've also served as an active member of several committees and worked on just about every special project undertaken by the chapter. I attended every national convention since I became active, and all but one Maryland Federation Convention. I currently serve as Publicity & Public Relations chair for the MD Federation and am a MD-Fed executive board member. In addition, I've worked on several Federation conventions and mini-conventions, performing many, varied roles—and I've thoroughly enjoyed whatever I've done.

I'm looking forward to being “just a member” and sitting back and watching others continue to keep the chapter alive and well and functioning—and even improve it. I'd truly like to see the newly constituted executive board not only continue the activities that were begun during Ed Bice's and my administrations—but expand them, because they're “chapter builders.” They're the activities that helped NARFE and Chapter 1747 become better known in our communities and the Federation, and yes, even in national NARFE. I'd even like to see the level of participation in our community activities increase—so that we might increase our membership.

### **Work for Change**

So, if you haven't yet thought of becoming an officer, please start thinking about it now, or encourage others to run. And keep in mind that those of us who are stepping down aren't leaving the chapter; we'll still be around, attending meetings and events, and helping new officers “transition” to their new jobs.

Again, use the form on page 3 to nominate yourself or another member for office. Just don't write in my name—because I hereby echo General Sherman's famous words: “If drafted, I will not run; if nominated, I will not accept; if elected, I will not serve.”

Yes, there it is. I feel I've done my turn and now it's time to turn over the gavel to someone else. And last, on a more personal note, it's time for me to take a vacation, go on the cruise I've been putting off, and “do nothing for a while.” Or, at least, a lot less NARFE.

## **FEDERAL LEGISLATION**

*JOSEPH YOUNG*

### **Let's Make a Deal**

On Monday, December 31, 2012, President Obama and Senate leaders struck a bipartisan agreement to allow income taxes to increase sharply for the first time in twenty years, fulfilling the President's campaign promise to raise taxes on the rich, while avoiding the worst effects of the “fiscal cliff”.

The agreement brokered by Vice President Joe Biden and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) targets taxpayers who earn more than \$450,000 per year, raising their rates for wages and investment profits. At the same time the deal would protect those households earning less than \$250,000 a year from income tax increases that were scheduled to take effect on January 1, 2013.

The Vice President and Minority Leader Mitch McConnell reached a deal at 9:00 pm, three hours before the midnight deadline. It came after negotiators cleared two final hurdles involving the estate tax and automatic spending cuts, known as sequestration, set to affect the Pentagon and other federal agencies the first week of January 2013.

Concessions were made by both the Democrats and Republicans. Republicans gave in on the spending cuts by agreeing to a two-month delay in budget reductions that would be paid for in part with new tax revenue, something the Republicans had resisted. The President made a major concession on the estate tax, agreeing to terms that would permit estates worth as much as \$15 million to escape taxation by the end of the decade.

The Senate passed the bill with bipartisan support in the early morning hours of January 1, 2013. The vote was 89 to 8. After a long tense day on Capitol Hill, the House voted late New Years Day to approve the bill by a vote of 257 to 167. The bill was sent to President Obama for his signature.

### **Mostly Good News for Retirees on Taxes**

Diane Polangin of Total Tax Service on January 17 updated members about 2012 taxes and stressed things to avoid when filing (red flags): determining the value of donated goods, deductible medical expenses, and lots more.



Please be sure you sign in at membership meetings so we can get accurate attendance counts. Thanks!

## NARFE Chapter 1747 Nomination Form

Please use this form to submit your name or to nominate another member of Chapter 1747 for the following officer positions. Those elected will serve a 2-year term, from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2015.

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate the office you are interested in or the name of your nominee.

President \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

1st Vice President \_\_\_\_\_ Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_

2nd Vice President \_\_\_\_\_ Assistant Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_

### MAIL TO:

Nominating Committee  
NARFE Chapter 1747  
PO Box 504  
Bowie, MD 20718-0504

### OR BY HAND:

Deliver this form to Ed Bice or Bob Cullen at any membership meeting through May 16, or call or e-mail either of them. You also can contact either of them for more information. If you wish to nominate more than one person for an office, copy this form or use a blank paper, giving your name, the nominee's name, and indicate the office for which you're nominating them.

Nominations also will be accepted from the floor at the May membership meeting. All nominees must be members in good standing of Chapter 1747.

## STATE LEGISLATION

*Ed BICE*

The 2013 General Assembly opened on January 9th. In 2012 there was the regular session and in addition Governor O'Malley called two special sessions. One dealt with financial issues and the other with the gambling issue. In 2013 the key issue will be transportation. The Governor plans to propose some type of gas tax.

### Financial Picture

The picture has brightened somewhat through careful planning and management, a recovering economy, and some good luck. The two-billion dollar structural deficit has now been reduced to 400 million dollars. In mid-December the Comptroller's Office gave some budget estimates. Their estimates for the next 18 months are 161 million dollars more than original estimates. Wage growth is in the 3–5 percent range and employment growth in the 1–2 percent range. Both these figures are sub par.

The U.S. Congress did not implement spending cuts known as sequestration by January 1st but rather put off action to sometime before March 1st. If the sequestration had taken place, it is estimated that 161,000 Marylanders would have lost their jobs and 911 million dollars in local sales and income taxes would have been lost.

### State Legislative Committee (SLC)

Members of the SLC met during the fall and summer. Our 2013 legislative program pamphlet has been completed and distributed to legislators. In the fall a letter was emailed to legislators asking them to inform us of any senior issues that they will sponsor or support so that we can proactively support bills if they reflect our agenda. This session our Tax Credit for the Payment of Long-Term Care Premiums bills will be introduced. The Senate bill is SB-35. As of this date the House bill does not have a number as it has not been dropped into the hopper. Both bills propose that the

one-time \$500 tax credit would be replaced by an annual \$200 tax credit. Thirty-four states have an annual tax credit.

### United Seniors of Maryland

The 2013 USM Legislative Forum will be held on Tuesday, March 19 at St. John's College, Annapolis. Please see or call Ed Bice for further details.

## CHAPTER 1747 BUDGET REPORT

Balance on: December 1, 2012	\$3759.15
Receipts:	712.95
Disbursements:	1708.00
Balance on: December 31, 2012	\$2764.10

## DAYS TO REMEMBER

February 13 Ash Wednesday  
February 14 Valentine's Day  
February 18 Presidents' 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	301-383-1597	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	301-383-1597	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, February 21

Diana Varela, Social Security Administration

Everything You Wondered about Social Security and Medicare