



# NARFE NEWSLETTER

GREATER BOWIE-CROFTON AREA CHAPTER 1747

**National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association**

Volume 33 No.8

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

April 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, April 18, Bowie Senior Center. Gloria Gaddy, City of Bowie Community Services.

Topic: Homeowners Insurance and Disasters.

❖ **General Meeting:** Thursday, May 16, Bowie Senior Center. State Legislators provide first-hand accounts on the legislative session.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*DOROTHY CAMPBELL*

### Are You Doing Your Part On the Legislative Front?

I'm not going to address what's happening to federal workers/retirees on Capitol Hill—it's unnecessary with all the media coverage and the excellent information you regularly receive from our Federal Legislative Chair Joe Young in our newsletter and from national NARFE. I'm sure you know what's going on. But are you doing your part to help yourself, your family, fellow NARFE members and all current federal employees and federal/postal retirees? And everyone else in our country who will suffer too when sequestration cuts take their toll on government services? Or do you feel that you don't have to do anything because "I pay dues so NARFE can lobby for me"?

If my last question describes you—you need to know that just because NARFE lobbies for us doesn't mean that we don't need to lobby too. Yes, NARFE speaks on our behalf, but we must speak individually too—to reinforce what our national organization is saying and doing. While our legislators know where NARFE stands on our issues, they need to hear from all of us as well. Our legislators give the great weight to the opinions of those whom they represent; not only those who agree with them, but also those who don't. And they won't know how

we feel, individually, unless we tell them. So, if you haven't yet contacted your senators and your representative, do it today. It's easy: See your NARFE magazine, the national NARFE website, or our website.

### Are You Supporting NARFE-PAC?

Another way to help boost our organization's lobbying efforts is to give to NARFE-PAC, NARFE's political action fund. NARFE-PAC, which, under federal law must be completely funded by the voluntary contributions of NARFE members, fights attacks on federal and postal retirees, as well as attacks on the pay and benefits of current workers. The non-partisan fund, which receives recommendations on whom to support from federations and chapters, helps to elect and re-elect legislators who will protect our benefits and amplifies NARFE's voice on Capitol Hill.

More information on NARFE-PAC and how it operates can be found in the March issue of NARFE magazine, page 28; that issue also included an easy-to-use mail-in form and envelope. Those wishing even more information can find it at [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org) (click on "About NARFE" on the Home Page and select "NARFE-PAC"). You can also donate by going to our chapter's website, [narfe1747.org](http://narfe1747.org) and clicking on NARFE Headquarters. When you get the Contact Us page, click on Legislation and select the NARFE-PAC box.

### Are You Supporting Chapter 1747?

Unless you just joined our chapter, you are probably accustomed to hearing my regular appeals to become more active in chapter activities. Throughout each year, our chapter participates in many community activities and special events; most are primarily opportunities to recruit new members, but all are fun events too. Many of these activities will be taking place over the next few months -- so come to membership meetings to learn how you can take part too. Or read about them in the next few newsletters—and sign up by phone/e-mail. The first

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special event will take place April 30—May 2; it's the MD Federation's 41st State Convention in Ocean City, MD. So far we have only seven delegates, but we're hoping for more. The deadline for me to receive payment for the \$45 2-day registration fee is Friday, April 10. Those wishing to attend the Tuesday night banquet (\$45) must also pay for that by April 10. For more details, including hotel information, contact me (see pg. 4).

A complete list of our special activities through June was handed out at the March 21 meeting; you can also view it on our website or contact me for a copy.

### **On the Agenda: Increased Chapter Dues?**

At the May 16 membership meeting, the Chapter 1747 Dues Increase Committee (Bob Cullen, Louise Cole, Ed Bice, Jerry Kursban and me) will present a proposal to raise our current \$5.00 annual chapter dues to \$8.00—a modest increase of 25 cents per member, per month. Following discussion, the proposal will be voted on by all members in good standing present at the meeting.

## **FEDERAL LEGISLATION**

*JOSEPH YOUNG*

### **Paul Ryan and the GOP Are not Our Friends**

The budget battle continues on Capitol Hill, with the House and Senate working on funding the government for the remainder of this fiscal year (2013), as well as the fiscal year 2014 budget. The House passed its version of the continuing resolution (CR) funding the government through the end of fiscal year 2013. Unfortunately, agencies will remain funded at sequestration levels, all but ensuring furlough notices will continue to be sent to employees. The bill also freezes federal pay for the remainder of 2013. The Senate CR is similar in that it would also permit furloughs and freeze federal pay.

On March 12, 2013, House Budget Committee Chair Paul Ryan, R-WI, put forth his fiscal 2014 budget blueprint, which easily moved through the committee. Like previous House budgets, the legislation would reduce the federal workforce by 10 percent by 2015 through attrition and require federal employees to pay more toward their retirement benefits. This would be on top of a pay freeze and unpaid furlough days which are scheduled to begin in April. It also calls for "better alignment" of public and private-sector compensation, but does not give specifics. Senate Budget Committee Chair Patty Murray (D-WA) unveiled her proposal, which, by a party line vote, was passed out of committee for the first time in four years. The two bills differ greatly overall, and the Senate bill contains no anti-federal workforce provisions.

At a rally on Capitol Hill, Joseph A. Beaudoin, president of NARFE, said "We are fed up with furloughs. We are fed up with frozen salaries. It's got to stop somewhere. Why can't it stop today?"

It was not stopped because Congress was unwilling to stop it, even if Democrats in the Senate and the White House had opposed it. Republicans insisted that the pay freeze continue.

In the name of a larger good, Democrats had little option but to give in to avert a government shutdown.

Senator Mikulski (D-MD) said she was "deeply disappointed the Senate bill doesn't include a much deserved and long-awaited cost-of-living adjustment for federal employees. For too long, deficit reduction has come on the backs of federal employees through sequester furloughs, pay freezes, diet COLAs and arbitrary cuts. This bill [continuing resolution] is not perfect. But it's far better than shutting down the government. My goal is to keep the government open, so we can pass a budget, solve sequester and get back to regular order. And as we solve it, I'll keep fighting for federal employees who are on the frontline every day, working to protect the health and safety of the American people."

"Federal employees now will have suffered three years of no pay raises, at the same time hundreds of thousands of them are facing multiple days of furloughs because of sequestration,"

J. David Cox, Sr., President of the American Federation of Government Employees said in response to comments made by Paul Ryan. "It's hard to imagine the federal government becoming a less attractive employer than it is today after this decision."

### **How Sequestration Will Affect the Social Security Administration**

Acting Social Security Commissioner Carolyn W. Colvin sent out the following communiqué explaining how sequestration will affect social security services provided to the public.

Dear Colleague,

I am committed to keeping you informed on important agency issues. I know sequestration is on all of our minds. As advocates for the Social Security Administration, I wanted to provide you with timely information about how these unfortunate budget cuts affect us.

As you are aware, due to the failure of Congress to reach a deal on a balanced deficit reduction to avoid sequestration, on March 1 the President was required by law to issue a sequestration order canceling approximately \$85 billion in budgetary resources across the Federal Government for the remainder of the Federal fiscal year.

As a result of sequestration, visitors in our field offices will wait significantly longer, and callers to our 800-number will wait almost 10 minutes for us to answer. We also estimate that pending levels of initial disability claims will rise by over 140,000, and, on average, applicants will have to wait about two weeks longer for a decision on an initial disability claim and nearly a month longer for a disability hearing decision. At this time, we are taking every step to mitigate the effects of these cuts on our service delivery to the American public. We will try to prioritize our reductions to avoid furloughs that would further harm services and program integrity efforts; however, the possibility of furloughs remains uncertain at this time.

I hope this information is helpful to you as you assist your clients in accessing services. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding as we work to manage these unfortunate circumstances and do our best to serve the public.

## STATE LEGISLATION

*Ed Bice*

The State Legislative Committee (SLC) priority issue in the 2013 General Assembly session has resulted in the introduction of SB 23 and HB 578 Income Tax Credit for Long-Term Care Premiums. SB 23 was heard by the Senate Budget and Tax Committee on January 30; no committee vote has been taken as of this date. HB 578 is sponsored by Del Jim Hubbard (District 23) and was heard by the House Ways and Means Committee on March 15. These companion bills would replace the present one-time \$500 tax credit with an annual \$200 credit for the payment of Long-Term Care insurance premiums beginning in 2014 and thereafter on new policies purchased.

Both bills have strong support among committee members. Based on the results from our 2010 questionnaire and the number of co-sponsors on the bills (especially the 85 co-sponsors on the House bill) I believe the votes are there to get the bills passed if a full floor vote is taken. The fact remains that getting money bills out of committees is a persistent problem, especially in the Ways and Means Committee. On February 7, Bill Ferguson, Former Chair, SLC and I met with Delegate Sheila Hixson, (District 20-Montgomery County) who chairs the Ways and Means Committee to discuss HB 578. It was a good informative meeting.

The table below lists other bills that the SLC is supporting with a brief summary of some of their provisions.

HB 422	Income Tax Subtraction Modification	Allows a subtraction modification of up to \$8,000 under State income tax for retirement income from an IRA retirement account or annuity.
HB 509	Maryland False Claims Act of 2013	Among other provisions, HB 509 prohibits specified actions against a governmental entity; provides specified penalties for making false claims; and authorizes a person or government entity to file a civil action against a person who makes a specified false claim.
HB 1044	Public Funding and Small Donor Act for General Assembly Elections	Creates a public financing system for General Assembly candidates which repeals the Public Financing Act for gubernatorial candidates; creates a commission to study public financing of elections in Maryland; and authorizes the governing body of a county to enact laws to regulate public campaign finance activity for certain county elective offices.

## CHAPTER 1747 BUDGET REPORT

Balance on: February 1, 2013	\$2726.52
Receipts:	452.61
Disbursements:	598.00
Balance on: January 31, 2013	\$2581.13

## CONDOLENCES

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

**Donald G. Arthur**  
**Marvin J. Hout**  
**Morris Kaplan**

**Floyd K. Riley**  
**John L. Welch**  
**Burnice M. White**

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

<b>Cynthia A. Agens Bauer</b>	<b>Iris L. Hudson</b>
<b>Reginald A. Berry</b>	<b>Alice Lillie Jacobs</b>
<b>Scott D. Chapman</b>	<b>George E. Matthews</b>
<b>Kimberly Crosby</b>	<b>Loena Matthews</b>
<b>James J. Devine</b>	<b>Dorothy R. Nevitt</b>
<b>Richard Diamond</b>	<b>Dolores Saars</b>
<b>Paul H. Finger</b>	<b>James A. Seidleck</b>

The names of the 14 new members above appeared on print-outs for mid-January to mid-March 2013. We welcome them and hope to see them at future meetings and special (Saturday) events.

### Still Looking for Officer Nominations

There's still time to nominate yourself or a member of Chapter 1747 for a Chapter office. Fill out the Nomination form in the last two newsletters, add your name, and turn it in at the April meeting. or mail it P.O. Box 504, Bowie, 20718.

### Ditto. Encore. Una Vez Más.

December 2012's Holiday Lunch at the Blue Dolphin was so successful that we just have to do it again! So it's the same location, same time, same price, same menu. The only differences are the date (June 20) and title (Officer Installation Luncheon). So circle the date, write the check, and sign up at the April 18 or May 16 membership Meeting for the June 20 Officer Installation Luncheon.

### 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 Gallart	301-262-7261	
	Tom Page	301-262-3418	
Sunshine	Marjorie Laios	301-262-1566	

Thursday, April 18

Gloria Gaddy, City of Bowie Community Services

Homeowner's Insurance and Disasters