



NARFE NEWSLETTER

GREATER BOWIE-CROFTON AREA CHAPTER 1747

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

Volume 33 No.10

www.NARFE1747.org

June 2013

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, June 20. Luncheon at the Blue Dolphin Bar & Grill, Gambrills, MD.
- ❖ **General Meeting:** Thursday, September 19. Program to be announced.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DOROTHY CAMPBELL

1747 Officer Election Report: Two Jobs Remain Open!

Because the Chapter's by-laws call for biennial elections of officers every other May, we held the election at our May 16 membership meeting. Despite the best candidate-search efforts of our Nominating Committee and repeated entreaties for candidates for all offices at meetings and in our newsletter — no one came forward to run for the top two positions: president and first vice-president.

However, four officers were elected with no opposition: Lillie Watson, Second VP; Chiquitta Thomas, secretary; Jerry Kursban, treasurer; and Louise Cole, assistant treasurer. They will be sworn in at our June 20 luncheon and take office on July 1. They will serve through May 30, 2015.

What Happens Now?

Following the election process, I presented several options that are open to our chapter if no one volunteers to serve as president. (To remain a functional chapter, we must have a president.) The options are based on our by-laws and those of the Maryland Federation of Chapters and national NARFE. They are:

1) Until June 30, the last day of my presidency, any Chapter member in good standing can volunteer to take on the presidency. That person would assume office on July 1.

2) If no one volunteers by June 30 to become president, according to our by-laws the newly-elected Second VP would assume the office of president on July 1. **NOTE: At the meeting, the newly elected Second VP stated that she would NOT serve as president.**

3) If the office of president is still unfilled on June 30, I will formally invoke the process necessary to merge our chapter with another, or begin the process that will result in dissolution of the chapter.

At the meeting, Nominating Committee Co-chairs Ed Bice and Bob Cullen and I all strongly urged chapter members to step up to the challenge to lead our chapter or to urge others to do so. Because a couple of members had voiced some interest in serving the chapter, Ed, Bob and I subsequently met with them; unfortunately, that meeting did not resolve our problem. Therefore, I must still encourage all other members who are reading this to contact one of the Committee members — keeping in mind that the chapter can even establish co-presidents who can share the workload — making the job of president easier."

Furthermore, anyone interested in helping in any way should contact Ed, Bob or me ASAP (See back page for contact info.)

I need not stress how important it is to keep our chapter alive,

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A Note From Your Outgoing President

In the May newsletter, I promised to deal with recruitment — which right now is one of NARFE's priorities. In our chapter, we've done a lot to encourage recruitment, but apparently it's not been enough.

I believe our chapter must expand our current publicity and public relations efforts and institute new PR projects. Some of these can and should be done using NARFE's Matching Funds Program; its use can greatly reduce the high costs of most advertising and PR projects. Help is also available through the MD Federation of Chapters.

particularly in light of the ongoing attacks on active federal/postal employees and the threats to retirees as well.

Easing up, Not Leaving

While after June 30 I will no longer be Chapter 1747's president, I will still serve on our executive board as immediate past president and will continue to support our chapter and participate in some chapter activities. Although I thoroughly enjoyed the 10 years I served the chapter at many levels, I look forward to getting some rest and relaxation, and am already preparing to take a long-delayed cruise and several other postponed getaways.

I sincerely hope that we will, as of July 1, have a full complement of officers, committee chairs/members and activity chairs too. I extend my best wishes to the four officers elected on May 16 and my thanks to those who have expressed interest in signing on to save the chapter from the ignominy of merger or dissolution.



A postscript: Lost in the shuffle of last month's election, was that our chapter on May 6 celebrated the 33rd anniversary of receiving its charter. I am optimistic that with the participation and commitment of some new leaders to work with the old ones, our chapter can look forward to celebrating many, many more anniversaries.

And a final PS: Since this is the last newsletter until September, keep up what's happening in NARFE by regularly checking our website and our FACEBOOK page. Also, please read your national NARFE magazine, and sign up for GEMS, NARFE's online legislative report and for its legislative hotline.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

JOSEPH YOUNG

Legislative Branch Is Dysfunctional

Established by Article I of the Constitution, the Legislative Branch consists of the House of Representatives and the Senate, which together form the United States Congress. The Constitution grants Congress the sole authority to enact legislation and declare war, the right to confirm or reject many Presidential appointments, and substantial investigative powers.

The House of Representatives is made up of 435 elected members, divided among the 50 states in proportion to their total population. In addition, there are 6 non-voting members, representing the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and four other territories of the United States. The presiding officer of the chamber is the Speaker of the House, elected by the Representatives. He or she is third in the line of succession to the Presidency.

Members of the House are elected every two years and must be 25 years of age, a U.S. citizen for at least seven years, and a resident of the state (but not necessarily the district) they represent.

The House has several powers assigned exclusively to it, including the power to initiate revenue bills, impeach federal of-

ficials, and elect the President in the case of an Electoral College tie.

The Senate is composed of 100 Senators, 2 for each state. Until the ratification of the 17th Amendment in 1913, Senators were chosen by state legislatures, not by popular vote. Since then, they have been elected to six-year terms by the people of each state. Senators' terms are staggered so that about one-third of the Senate is up for reelection every two years. Senators must be 30 years of age, U.S. citizens for at least nine years, and residents of the state they represent.

The Vice President of the United States serves as President of the Senate and may cast the decisive vote in the event of a tie in the Senate.

The Senate has the sole power to confirm those of the President's appointments that require consent, and to ratify treaties. There are, however, two exceptions to this rule: the House must also approve appointments to the Vice Presidency and any treaty that involves foreign trade. The Senate also tries impeachment cases for federal officials referred to it by the House.

In order to pass legislation and send it to the President for his signature, both the House and the Senate must pass the same bill by majority vote. If the President vetoes a bill, they may override his veto by passing the bill again in each chamber with at least two-thirds of each body voting in favor.



E.J. Dionne Jr., a writer for the Washington Post Newspaper, stated the following, "We know American politics are dysfunctional. But after a week of scandal obsession during which the nation's capital and the media virtually ignored the problems most voters care about — jobs, incomes, growth, opportunity, education — [the public is] asking if there is something especially flawed about our democracy."

The Congress needs to act soon on the President's Fiscal Year 2014 Budget or a bipartisan budget plan that make critical investments to strengthen the middle class, create jobs, and grow the economy while continuing to cut the deficit in a balanced way.

We must attract more jobs to America and equip our people with the skills needed to do the jobs of the 21st Century. We must raise the minimum wage to \$9 an hour so a hard day's work pays more.

To make America once again a magnet for jobs, the budget plan should invest in high-tech manufacturing and innovation, clean energy, and infrastructure, while cutting red tape to help businesses grow. To give workers the skills they need to compete in the global economy, we must invest in education from pre-school to job training. To put the nation on a sound fiscal course, every new initiative in the budget plan should be fully paid for, so they do not add a single dime to the deficit. The budget plan should also incorporate the President's compromise offer to House Speaker Boehner to achieve another \$1.8 trillion in deficit reduction in a balanced way. When combined with the deficit reduction already achieved, this will allow us to exceed the goal of \$4 trillion in deficit reduction, while growing the economy and strengthening the middle class. By including this compromise proposal in the Budget, the President is demon-

Installation Luncheon



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

DATE: Thursday, June 20, 2013

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

COST: \$24.00 (includes tax and tip)

Pay 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 **June 14**. Cancellation policy: **No refunds** will be made if reservations are not cancelled by **June 17**.

strating his willingness to make tough choices and his seriousness about finding common ground to further reduce the deficit. It is time for Congress to get to work!

Government Pension Offset (GPO)

A key component of NARFE's legislative agenda has seen action on Capitol Hill. Legislation to repeal the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) has been introduced in both the House (H.R. 1795) and the Senate (S. 896), by Rep. Rodney Davis, R-IL, and Sen. Mark Begich, D-AK, respectively. Action letters have been uploaded to the NARFE Legislative Action Center for you to modify and send to your representative and two senators, urging their co-sponsorship, or thanking them for co-sponsoring their respective bills.

Visit <http://capwiz.com/narfe/issues/alert/?alertid=62651956> and <http://capwiz.com/narfe/issues/alert/?alertid=62655221> to send your message.

STATE LEGISLATION

Ed Bice

If you missed our May 16 membership meeting, you missed hearing State Senator Douglas Peters (D-District 23) give a comprehensive report on this year's legislative session. He also fielded a lively and informative Q & A session. Responding to several complaints that no legislation that addressed senior issues had been passed, Sen. Peters noted that since Maryland's structural deficit had been reduced from \$25 billion to \$0 during the last several years, and since economic conditions have improved, "this gives rise to our taking action on meaningful senior issues in 2014."

To learn what happened at the recent Maryland Federation Convention, check out the Chapter's website: NARFE1747.org. It will be titled: "Listen, Learn & Lobby — A Special Report on the 41st Maryland Federation Convention."

CHAPTER 1747 BUDGET REPORT

Balance on: April 1, 2013	\$2664.64
Receipts:	400.49
Disbursements:	223.00
Balance on: April 30, 2013	\$2842.13

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Following are new members who joined NARFE or transferred into our chapter since our last report:

Barbara Mander
James Remines

Laura Rudd
Maurice Sheley

An additional five members were reinstated which appears to help our membership count; however, five members voluntarily transferred to E-NARFE and two transferred to chapters in other states. Even worse, though, national NARFE dropped 24 members in the last two months due to non-payment of dues. Our chapter can only hope that these dropped members will respond to chapter, Federation and national NARFE reach-out efforts by returning to NARFE and our chapter.

MOVING?

Please let us know!

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	

See You in September!

General Meeting, Thursday, September 19

Program to Be Announced —

Check our Website at www.NARFE1747.org