



NARFE NEWSLETTER

GREATER BOWIE-CROFTON AREA CHAPTER 1747

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

Volume 34 No.1

www.NARFE1747.org

September 2013

www.facebook.com/narfe1747

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS are held at the Bowie Senior Center, 14900 Health Center Drive, Bowie, 20716 in Room 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 or our website 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, September 19, 10:00 A.M., Bowie Senior Center. Elder Law. Speaker from Byrd and Byrd.

❖ **General Meeting:** Thursday, October 17, 10:00 A.M., Bowie Senior Center. Personal Safety, Speaker from the P.G. County Sheriff's Office

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JERRY KURSBAN

Welcome aboard to the kick-off meeting for 2013—2014 season of the Greater Bowie-Crofton Chapter 1747 of the National Active and Retired Employees Association (NARFE). The Executive Board has already been at work making preparations for what I hope will be a vibrant and exciting year.

Our special thanks go to Frank Evans and George Gardner for their diligent efforts in arranging and contacting the persons who will be presenting our future programs. Chiquitta Thomas, Lillie Watson, and Louise Cole have updated our chapter roster and furnished the information to National NARFE and the State Federation. While you were hopefully enjoying your summer hiatus, Bob Cullen, our Treasurer, Howard (Flash) Gordon, our NARFE-NET Coordinator, Joe Young, our Federal Legislation Chairman, and Ed Bice, our Community Affairs and State Legislative Chairman have continued to be available to perform numerous duties. And we extend our appreciation to Jessica Forman who prepared this newsletter for us.

We will continue to hold our monthly general chapter meetings at the Bowie Senior Center at 10:00 on the third Thursday of the month. Exceptions are the November 21 Health Fair meeting, which will be held in the multipurpose room of the Kenhill Center; our Holiday Luncheon on December 19; and our picnic on June 19, 2014. So please take a moment to check the

Program Schedule on page 3 (and MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW to reserve these future dates.)

We are very fortunate that most of the Committee Chairs and Activity Coordinators have agreed to continue to serve for another year. However, as you may note, we have several vacancies that need to be filled if the chapter will be able to operate effectively. Frank Evans, who unfortunately will not be able to continue serving as our 1st Vice President, gave me a little poem which I would like to share with you.

"Are you an active member, the kind who would be missed?

Or are you simply satisfied if your name is on the list.

Do you attend the meetings and contribute to our mission?

Or do you stay at home and just watch television.

Do you come out when needed and help to get the work done?

Or do you just turn up later to enjoy refreshments and some fun.

Do you ever volunteer for projects which you think are good?

Or do you leave the work for others and talk of 'would' or 'should.'

Think it over, because only you know what is the right choice for you.

Will you choose to be an active member, or choose to just belong?"

My intent in citing the poem above is in no way meant to imply shame or guilt to those members who choose not to participate in an active manner. We understand and respect that there are many members who are not able to contribute. Notwithstanding, we do have several positions that are vacant. We will need to fill them for this NARFE chapter to operate effectively. So don't be shy. If the spirit moves you, please step forward and volunteer to serve in some fashion, however limited. Contact one of the

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members of Chapter Board listed on the Newsletter and inform us regarding your willingness to assist.

In closing, I would like to express my appreciation to our past-president, Dorothy Campbell. Dorothy invested a prodigious amount of time and effort on behalf of our chapter. For the past few years, Dorothy provided the glue that held our chapter together at a time when several NARFE chapters were incurring difficulty. I believe we are all indebted to Dorothy for serving us.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

JOSEPH YOUNG

GOP Rejects Obama Grand Bargain for Middle-Class Jobs

President Obama visited an Amazon.com warehouse in Chattanooga, Tennessee on Tuesday, July 30, 2013, to reveal a plan to spend more on creating jobs in exchange for reforming the corporate tax code. The reform measure would lower the corporate tax rate to 28 percent.

The reform measures proposed by President Obama and his aides would sidestep disagreements and focus on a longtime Republican goal: A rewrite of the business tax code to lower corporate taxes.

The overhaul, White House officials said, would generate new revenue that could be used to hire workers to build roads, bridges, and other infrastructure.

As the President addressed the management and staff members at the Amazon.com warehouse, he said, "Here's the bottom line; I'm willing to work with Republicans on reforming our corporate tax code, as long as we use the money from transitioning to a simpler tax system for a significant investment in creating middle-class jobs. That's the deal".

Soon after the President's speech, Republican leaders in the Senate and House rejected and criticized the idea as a tired repackaging of old proposals.

In principle, there is common ground for both Republicans and Democrats to reach a compromise. Both parties generally agree that the corporate tax code needs to be simplified and rates lowered.

The Obama Administration and key congressional Republicans, such as House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Dave Camp (Michigan) also agree that U.S. companies that have amassed profits overseas should pay a tax or fee to bring those funds home. About 2-trillion-dollars in such profits remain abroad.

A fee on foreign profits could go towards paying for the jobs proposals Obama wants, which also include opening manufacturing institutes and investing in community colleges to train workers. President Obama has proposed \$50 billion in jobs-related spending.

"We should take a look at what we all agree on," White House Communications Director Jennifer Palmieri said. "This is something that would create jobs in the short term and be a big boost for the middle class."

President Obama's proposal to lower the corporate tax rate to 28 percent didn't impress Republicans. They are pushing for a lower rate and have rejected the idea of using added revenue for new federal spending.

In President Obama's speech in Chattanooga, Tennessee, he challenged Republicans to lay out their own proposals and accused them of trying to gut federal investments in education and energy and roll back Obama care.

STATE LEGISLATION

ED BICE

The State Legislative Committee (SLC) continued to meet in the summer as is our custom to work on the legislative agenda for the 2014 General Assembly session. The committee is always open to suggestions from chapter members for issues that it can address for inclusion in the agenda. Some members of the SLC met during the summer with Senator Edward Kasemeyer, Chair, Senate Budget and Tax Committee, as well as members of the staffs of Speaker Busch and Governor O'Malley. These meetings were an effort to obtain support for our legislative ideas.

New Committee Members

New members have joined the SLC. These additions were due to resignations principally as the result of health issues experienced by some members. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please see me. We meet twelve times a year for about two hours. Meetings are held in Annapolis

JUST ONE PHONE CALL

...will put you in touch with your state or federal Representatives and Senators. Your opinion is important since both national and state legislators keep track of what their constituents tell them. Don't know the phone number or have access to the Internet? You can call the Capitol main telephone number—202-224-3121—and be connected.

Or call the reference desk at your local library. But do make a note of names and numbers, so you don't have to keep asking the same questions each time.

Annapolis	West Street	410-222-1750
	Broadneck	410-222-1905
	Eastport	410-222-1770
Bowie	Main and South	301-262-7000
Crofton		410-222-7915
Odenton		410-222-6277
Upper Marlboro		301-627-9330

CHAPTER 1747 BUDGET REPORT

Balance on: July 1, 2013 \$2760.85
Receipts: 218.09
Disbursements: 113.31
Balance on: July 31, 2013 \$2865.63



PROGRAMS

2013

September 19	10:00—12:00	Bowie Senior Center, Elder Law, Speaker from Byrd and Byrd
October 17	10:00—12:00	Bowie Senior Center, Personal Safety, P.G. County Sheriff's Office
November 21	10:00—12:00	Kenhill Center, Multi-Purpose Room, Health Plan Fair
December 19	11:30—2:00	Holiday Luncheon, location TBD

2014

January 16	10:00—12:00	Bowie Senior Center, Income Tax Preparation Tips, Total Tax Service
February 20	10:00—12:00	Bowie Senior Center, Travel Planning for Seniors
March 20	10:00—12:00	Bowie Senior Center, NARFE National Update
April 17	10:00—12:00	Bowie Senior Center, Spring Gardening, Homestead Gardens
May 15	10:00—12:00	Bowie Senior Center, State Legislative Update by State Legislators
June 19	11:30—2:00	Chapter 1747 Picnic, location TBD



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. 34, No.1

Dues payments, gifts, and contributions to NARFE are not deductible as Charitable Contributions for income tax purposes.

CHAPTER BOARD

Officers

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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
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	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

What Do You Need to Know About Elder Law?

Check our Website at www.NARFE1747.org