



NARFE NEWSLETTER

GREATER BOWIE-CROFTON AREA CHAPTER 1747

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

Volume 34 No.10

NARFE1747.org

September 2014

Ticket prices on pages 2 and 3 have been corrected!

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 18, 10:00 AM. Future of NARFE ; Speaker, Gary Roundtree, 1st VP, and Legislative Director, Maryland Federation. Bowie Senior Center.

❖ **General Meeting:** Thursday, October 16, 11:30 AM. Tips for the Savvy Consumer; Speaker, Karen Straughn, Maryland Assistant Attorney General.; Luncheon Meeting at the Nautilus Restaurant, 1709 Transportation Dr., Route 3, Crofton, Md.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JERRY KURSBAN

"The days go slow but the years go fast." So goes a venerable French proverb. Welcome back as our NARFE Chapter 1747 year gets underway for 2014—2015. I hope you experienced an enjoyable and eventful summer. Please look at the Program Schedule below and pay special attention to the times and places of the meetings, as only one of our first four meetings will be held at the Bowie Senior Center. One of the fall meetings will be at the Nautilus Restaurant, another at the Kenwood Center, and the location of the Holiday Party is not decided at this date.

National Narfe Convention.

The 33rd National Convention in Orlando Florida portends to be one of the most important in NARFE's history. Recognizing that significant changes will be necessary to maintain and improve the viability of NARFE, the National Executive Board (NEB) established the Future of NARFE (FON) Committee. The report submitted by the FON Committee was adopted with minor amendments. If the FON recommendations are approved at the

Are You Fading?

Sadly, some of us are—fading away from NARFE, that is. National reports that Chapter 1747 has some 600 members. But many have faded out of the picture. They don't come to meetings. They don't come to luncheons either. They're not marching in community parades, and worse, they're not watching from the sidelines either. Some have moved and not let anyone know. Some just don't care. But if you don't care, if you are a member in name or e-mail only, NARFE will vanish. Then who will fight for government retirees and current employees? NARFE needs you, and needs you now, more than ever. You don't have to donate 100 percent of your time, and you don't have to shell out all your spare cash to be an effective member. All you have to do is show up at meetings! You can do one part to help with just one event. If we each do that, National can continue to work to safeguard our pensions and work with our states and counties. Remember, the same thirty people can't carry the load for everyone.

2014 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

September 18 10:00 AM—12:00 PM, **Bowie Senior Center:** Future of NARFE Gary Roundtree, 1st VP, Maryland Federation
October 16 11:30 AM—2:00 PM, **Nautilus Restaurant:** Tips for the Savvy Consumer Karen Straughn, Maryland Assistant Attorney General
November 20 10:00 AM—12:00 PM, **Kenhill Center,** Multipurpose Room, Open Season Health Fair
December 18 11:30 AM—2:00 PM, Holiday Luncheon Restaurant to be selected

Continued on page 2

President's Message Continued from Page 1
convention, they will significantly change many aspects of the organization. Gary Roundtree, the 1st Vice-President and Legislative Director of the Maryland Federation will present the results of the convention and address other member issues of interest at our September 18th Chapter meeting. If you haven't heard him speak before, you will find he is a dynamic speaker.

NARFE Magazine

Your September NARFE Magazine contains several articles of special interest. NARFE will pay you \$10 for each new member you recruit in September (page 4), The Membership Application is available on p48. And take advantage of your opportunity to inform NARFE about your advocacy efforts by taking the Survey of Advocacy (page 40). NARFE's Legislative Training Conference will be held March 14—17 in Virginia (p9). Active Federal employees can expect to receive a 1 per cent pay raise in 2015. NARFE has been actively advocating for a higher increase which matches wage increases in the private sector. (page 7). Retirees and prospective retirees should take note of a recent Supreme Court decision that a retirement account ceases to be a retirement account when the owner dies and a non-spouse beneficiary inherits the money, and therefore, is not protected in bankruptcy. (page 38). In addition to the above citations, there are several other highly informative articles. Would you not agree that receipt of the NARFE Magazine makes membership in NARFE a highly worthwhile investment?

I look forward to seeing you at our September 18 general meeting. It is at the Bowie Senior Center at 10:00 AM.

STATE LEGISLATION

Ed Bice

Did You See Us From The Sidelines?

Chapter members have participated in various community events for many years. This year was challenging as family obligations and lack of interest by members reduced our presence. Listed below are the events and participants who very much enjoyed the excellent weather for the events and who provided visibility for Chapter 1747.

- Crofton Armed Forces Day Parade May 10
Jerry Kursban, Frances Steburg, Donna Minner, Dorothy and Ed Bice
- Bowie Memorial Day Parade May 24
Jerry Kursban, Frances Steburg, Anne and Bob Cullen, Dorothy and Ed Bice
- Wreath Laying Ceremony, Old Bowie Veterans Park May 26
Ed Bice
- Bowiefest June 7
Jerry Kursban, Louise Cole, Ed Bice

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Remember this Quilt?

Last May, Peter Hill donated this quilt to our chapter. It was made by his wife, Margy, and is worth over \$400. This month, and for the rest of the year, you'll have a chance to win it, because Chapter 1747 is raffling this handmade quilt. Tickets will be sold at the September general meeting and at every meeting through May. The winning ticket will be selected at the June Installation Luncheon (June 18, 2015). Tickets are \$2.00 each, 5 for \$3.00, or 7 for \$10.00. They can be purchased at Chapter meetings or by mailing a check to NARFE Chapter 1747, P.O. Box 504, Bowie, MD 20718. Tear out the raffle entry order blank on page 3 and fill in your name, phone number, e-mail (if you use e-mail) and the number of tickets you are purchasing. You will receive your tickets at the next meeting, or by mail if you miss the meeting. Remember, you have to have a ticket to win!

ALERT ALERT ALERT

Ticket prices were given incorrectly—they should have read:

1 for \$2.00; 5 for \$3.00; 7 for \$10.00.

Our apologies and thanks to our sharp-eyed readers.

ALERT ALERT ALERT

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Chapter Events

September 18, 10:00 AM, General Meeting. **Bowie Senior Center:** Future of NARFE Gary Roundtree, 1st VP, Maryland Federation
October 16 11:30 AM—2:00 PM, **Nautilus Restaurant:** Tips for the Savvy Consumer Karen Straughn, Maryland Assistant Attorney General

Quilt Raffle Ticket Order Blank

Name _____

Telephone _____

or E-mail _____

Number of tickets ordered: _____ (1 for \$2, 5 for \$3, or 7 for \$10)

Mail with your check to NARFE Chapter 1747, P. O. Box 504, Bowie MD 20718

Flash Notes

Flash comments on a few things he has noticed.

Recent photographs taken by our photographer Frank Lee can be found on the Chapter's Facebook page at: facebook.com/NARFE1747 From there click "More," then "Photos". While you are on our page, please click the Like button. Photographs from years ago to this year can also be found at: narfe1747.org/gallery/ Click "Last modified" twice to see the list in reverse chronological order. Then click on any photograph you wish to see.

Between January to July 2014, National reported 705 members in Chapter 1747. Eight members joined this year so far. Fifty-five members were dropped for non-renewal. No members transferred into the chapter. Ten members transferred out of the chapter into chapter 2363 (E-chapter) and one member transferred into chapter 2364 (Florida E-chapter). Two members passed away. Sixty members were sent second notices; and we have another 64 prospective new members.

October's Speaker

Karen Straughn is an Assistant Attorney General and Director of the Mediation Unit for the Consumer Protection Division, which mediates disputes between consumers and businesses. Under Ms. Straughn's direction, the mediation unit handles over 10,000 cases each year, and has a 60 per cent success rate. She has been in this position for approximately 7 years. Prior to coming to the Consumer Protection Division in 2008, Ms. Straughn served 3 years as the Director of Consumer Complaints, Property & Casualty Unit, for the Maryland Insurance Administration, after working as a private attorney in the insurance defense field. She received her law degree in 1998 at the University of Baltimore Law School, and her undergraduate degree from Towson University

State Legislation Continued from Page 2

Thank you to all and a special thank you to Frances for providing and driving her red truck and to Dorothy who came off the 30-day disabled list to take part in two events.

Next year—To those of you who sat on the sidelines, I hope to see you in our ranks and on the line next year.

CHAPTER 1747 BUDGET REPORT

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Balance on: July 1, 2014 | \$1638.91 |
| Receipts: | 255.31 |
| Disbursements: | 33.10 |
| Balance on: July 31, 2014 | \$1861.12 |

DAYS TO REMEMBER

| | |
|--------------|----------------------------------|
| September 1 | Labor Day |
| September 7 | Grandparents' Day |
| September 24 | Rosh Hashona (begins at sundown) |

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. 10

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

CHAPTER BOARD

Officers

| | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| President | Jerry Kursban | 301-261-3329 | jkursban@gmail.com |
| 1st Vice President | Vacant | | |
| 2nd Vice President | Lillie Watson | 301-383-1597 | lwatson16@hotmail.com |
| Secretary | Chiquitta Thomas | 301-805-4108 | c_thomas106@verizon.net |
| Assistant Secretary | Jacqueline Wilson | | missJackieV@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 Production | Jessica Forman | 843-347-9287 | jesscafforman@gmail.com |
| Programs | Vacant | | |
| Service Officer | Bob Cullen | 301-262-4783 | ba3537@aol.com |
| 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 | |
| | Tom Page | 301-262-3418 | |
| Social Media Coordinator | Howard (Flash)Gordon | 301-464-2745 | flash@acm.org |
| Sunshine | Marjorie Laios | 301-262-1566 | |

**General Meeting September 18
Bowie Senior Center, 10:00 AM**

The Future of NARFE