



# NARFE NEWSLETTER

GREATER BOWIE-CROFTON AREA CHAPTER 1747

**National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association**

Volume 34 No. 8

NARFE1747.org

October 2014

**Raffle 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, 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.

❖ **General Meeting:** November 20, 10:00 AM. Health Fair, **Kenhill Center**, 2614 Kenhill Drive, Bowie, Md.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JERRY KURSBAN

Why is NARFE worthy and deserving of your support? Because NARFE is the only organization devoted EXCLUSIVELY to promoting and supporting the interests of current and potential federal annuitants.

As members of NARFE, we may share common interests and advocacy with other organizations, such as AARP and the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare. But only NARFE advocates exclusively for current and potential federal annuitants. Let's take a look at NARFE'S Mission Statement:

"To support legislation beneficial to current and potential federal annuitants and to oppose legislation contrary to their interests.

To promote the general welfare of current and potential federal annuitants by advising them with respect to their rights under retirement laws and regulations.

To cooperate with other organizations and associations in furtherance of those general objectives."

As an advocacy organization, NARFE maintains a Legislative Action Center website which provides a "Vote Scorecard,"

## The Blue Ribbon Goes to... e-mail!



Yes, a surprising number of NARFE members decided that they wanted to try e-mail. And it's not too late for you to join them. All you have to do is let our web coordinator, Howard "Flash" Gordon know. Just e-mail him at [flash@acm.org](mailto:flash@acm.org). Put NARFE Newsletter in the subject line and include your zip code in the message. Do not call or mention that you would like to switch to e-mail delivery at a meeting—he must keep a written record so you can be properly added to the e-mail permissions list and your address removed from the mail stickers National sends us.

tracking the votes of each member of Congress on issues important to NARFE. Examine pages 28—40 of your October NARFE magazine which shows the voting record of members of the 113th Congress. Note that all but one of our Maryland Senators and Representatives voted 100 percent in support of NARFE's preferred positions. Also check the article authored by Gary Roundtree, our September speaker, on page 10, which addresses how we work together with other organizations to develop effective strategies and tactics that further NARFE's legislative agenda.

The bottom line is that YOU NEED NARFE and NARFE NEEDS YOU. As is the case with many other NARFE chapters, we need more members to step forward to assist in operating the chapter. If we are going to keep Chapter 1747 viable in the future, we need more members to volunteer their services. Please contact any of the officers listed on the back of your monthly Chapter 1747 Newsletter.

## Something New for Halloween!

The Bowie Community Theater is producing *Murder Room* from October 31 to November 14. Tickets are \$20 for adults, and \$15 for seniors. If only 10 people from NARFE are interested in attending, we may receive a lower rate. Call Ed or Dorothy Bice at 301-464-3748 if you are interested in joining the party. Further details will be announced in October.

### STATE LEGISLATION

ED BICE

#### SLC SURVEY

In April the State Legislation Committee (SLC) mailed an introductory letter and survey form relating to three issues: equalizing a tax exemption from income, establishing an annual tax credit for Long Term insurance, and equalizing a tax exemption for Maryland seniors. All General Assembly and gubernatorial candidates received the mailing, a total of 537 individuals. We received 185 replies. Results were shared with Federation officers, chapter presidents and legislative contacts before the June 24 primary election. Another mailing was done in August with a requested return date of September 15 to the winning candidates in the primary who had not responded to the earlier mailing. As of that date, 27 additional survey forms have been received. Here are the results for our area:

*Governor:* Larry Hogan (R) responded yes. Lt. Gov. Brown (D) sent a two-page email documenting the O'Malley Administration position.

*District 21:* Delegate Pena-Mellnyk responded yes. No survey forms were returned by Senator Rosapepe or Delegates Barnes and Frush .

*District 23:* Delegates Holmes, Vallerio and Valentino-Smith and Senator Peters responded yes.

*District 24:* Senator Benson and Delegate Howard responded yes. Delegate Vaughn and candidate Erik Barron (D) did not respond.

*District 25:* Senator Currie and Democratic candidates Angela Angel, Darryl Barnes and Delegate Davis did not respond. Senate candidate Kory Boone (R) responded yes.

*District 33:* Senator Reilly and Delegates McConkey and Vitale answered yes. No form was returned by Sid Saab (R). Henry Green (D).responded to only one question, which was answered yes.

Please consider their responses when you vote in November.

#### Committee Meetings

The SLC met during the summer and continues to meet in the fall in preparation for the 2015 General Assembly session. We discussed possible issues, ways to present issues more effectively, sponsorships of bills, strategies for success, updating our publications to make them more issue oriented, and ways to retain seniors in Maryland so that they can continue to provide resources to the state.

## Our Faces Are Red— But the Quilt Isn't



Despite a flurry of responses from our sharp-eyed readers, and repeated conference calls between editors and officers, we still reported incorrect prices for our quilt raffle. Our apologies to all or our readers (although we are glad to know that chapter members *actually read* the Newsletter).

Here are the correct prices:

1 ticket for \$2.00

3 tickets for \$5 (or \$1.60 per ticket)

7 tickets for \$10.00 (or \$1.43 per ticket)

Tickets can be purchased at our monthly meetings or by using the Raffle Ticket order on page 3. Please make your check payable to NARFE Chapter 1747 and indicate "Quilt Raffle Tickets" on the memo line. The form should be mailed to NARFE Chapter 1747, P.O. Box 504, Bowie, MD 20718. Remember to fill in your name, phone number, e-mail (if you use e-mail) and the number of tickets you are purchasing on the form . You will receive your tickets at the next meeting, or by mail if you miss the meeting.

The Raffle will continue until the June 2015 installation luncheon when the winner will be announced. The handmade quilt was created by Margy Hill and donated by her husband Peter.

## Open Season Information

Federal Benefits Open Season this year runs from Monday November 10, 2014 through Monday December 8, 2014. More information can be obtained from: <http://www.opm.gov/healthcare-insurance/open-season>

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### Chapter Events

**October 16 11:30 AM—2:00 PM, Nautilus Restaurant:** Tips for the Savvy Consumer Karen Straughn, Maryland Assistant Attorney General.

*Note the time and location change!*

November 20, 10:00 AM. Health Fair, **Kenhill Center**, 2614 Kenhill Drive, Bowie, Md.

# Quilt Raffle Ticket Order Blank

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

or E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

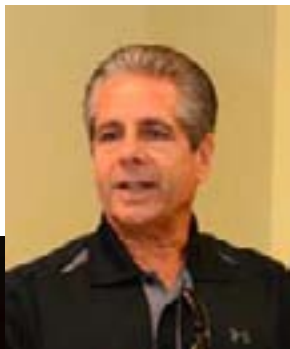
Number of tickets ordered: \_\_\_\_\_ (1 for \$2, 3 for \$5, or 7 for \$10)

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

**September's Audience** heard about how other NARFE groups were acting to help retain Federal benefits.



Paul Schwartz, (right) from NARFE Chapter 1892, spoke about his resolution which permitted NARFE to support Campaign Finance Reform legislation.



Gary Roundtree Sr., (left) MD Federation Legislative Director, spoke about issues affecting Federal employees before Congress.

## CHAPTER 1747 BUDGET REPORT

Balance on: July 1, 2014	\$1861.12
Receipts:	229.81
Disbursements:	79.05
Balance on: July 31, 2014	\$2011.88

## DAYS TO REMEMBER

October 3	Yom Kippur (begins at sundown)
October 13	Columbus Day
October 24	United Nations Day
October 31	Halloween

## 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	Jerry Kursban	301-261-3329	jkursban@gmail.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		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 October 16, 11:30 AM**  
**Luncheon Meeting at the Nautilus Restaurant**  
**1709 Transportation Dr., Route 3, Crofton, Md.**