



NARFE NEWSLETTER

GREATER BOWIE-CROFTON AREA CHAPTER 1747

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

Volume 34 No. 9

NARFE1747.org

November 2014

Get Involved! Try Training, Volunteering, or come to the Holiday Party!

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

❖ **General Meeting:** December 18 11:30 AM—2:00 PM, Holiday Luncheon at the Blue Dolphin Restaurant, Rte 3 South, Gambrills. Social Hour is 11:30 AM, Lunch at Noon.



**Like us on:
facebook.com/narfe1747**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JERRY KURSBAN

Scams and Other Chapter Happenings

If you did not attend our NARFE Chapter 1747 meeting on October 16 at the Nautilus Restaurant, you missed a stellar presentation and a meal with excellent service. Karen Straughn, who is an Assistant Attorney General and Director of the Mediation Unit of the Consumer Protection Agency for the State of Maryland advised us regarding the common characteristics of typical scams. These characteristics include (1) Send money; (2) Act fast; and (3) Don't tell anyone. Some of the least recognized but most popular scams include the four types she described.

❖ **Grandparent Scam:** Your grandchild has been arrested and needs bail money immediately to avoid going to jail. The arrested person does not want the parents informed because it would be highly embarrassing (for example, an arrest in a foreign country for getting drunk or smoking marijuana while on vacation).

❖ **Money or Green Card Scam:** You owe money to a store or service which must be paid at once to avoid shut-downs

like service or credit cut-offs. You are sent to a store, such as Walmart or Target to purchase a card with money on it. The card includes a code, which you give the caller so he or she can pay your overdue bill. You can be sure the bill will not be paid, but the money on the card will vanish.

❖ **Prize or Lottery Winner Scam:** Send a little money to pay taxes and administrative fees in exchange for a large monetary prize. Of course, there is no prize and you never receive any winnings. Scammers make their money on the hundreds of small fees they collect.

❖ **Personal Information Request Scam:** Caller claims to represent a government or major business organization such as the Social Security Department, Medicare, Credit Card provider like American Express, Visa, or Master Card, or other similar group. They request your bank account number, Social Security Number, pin numbers for credit or debit cards or other personal information. Often they call or e-mail and ask you to verify your number.

Several other scams were discussed. There are many other schemes out there. Be aware of spoofing and phishing in your e-mails. In short, do not send money, do not keep the request a

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Open Season Information

Federal Benefits Open Season begins Monday November 10, 2014 and continues through Monday December 8, 2014. For more information, check OPM's website, <http://www.opm.gov/healthcare-insurance/open-season>, mailings from your current insurer or from other qualified groups, and NARFE's magazine. Or you can make it simple, and come to November's Health fair general meeting at Kenhill Center. Representatives from several companies will be on hand to answer specific questions, verify policy changes, and even give out some freebies.

secret and do not act without verifying information yourself. Do not rely on internet return mail; check names, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses yourself and call the institution before responding in any way.

Also a new service office has been opened in Largo at 920 Basil Court, Room 301. If you believe a scammer has contacted you or if you have been denied Medicare or Medicaid, contact this office for assistance. Remember, institutions do not request this type of information through e-mail. Never give information out unless you have placed the call and verified that the request is actually from the group you want to reach.

Each attendee received a copy of "A Consumer Guide for Seniors" which addresses not only consumer scams, but also health issues, such as home medical equipment, hearing aids, and insurance problems. It also addresses financial matters, including living trusts, pre-need burial contracts, and investment fraud.

Nominations Are Coming

We will be setting up a Nominating Committee to search for members who are willing to serve as Chapter 1747 Officers for 2015 and 2016. The Maryland Federation is sponsoring a training session for current and prospective Chapter officers on Thursday, October 30 from 8:30 to 3:30 at the Comfort Inn in Bowie. Lunch is included. There are still free training slots available. If you are interested in serving as a chapter officer and would like to receive training, please call Jerry Kursban @ 301-261-3329, or email jkursban@gmail.com.

If you have never been an officer, come and train. You will find that the positions are not terribly difficult or time-consuming. Even a small, one-time, volunteer job is a great help to officers. We all fall into the rut of letting someone else do it and wondering why many more events aren't held or programs developed. Try training, volunteer for something, and help the chapter continue providing interesting events. The same people can't plan, run and attend every activity. Without attendance, volunteerism, and response from members in general, there is no chapter.

Elections

In the same vein, please remember to vote on Tuesday, November 4. If you want change, don't leave voting to "someone else." You may not like what they select, but in a democracy, you get what the majority wants. Remember, majorities are created by those who **do** vote.

We extend our special thanks to Jessica Forman for her stellar efforts in developing our monthly Chapter 1747 newsletter.

CONDOLENCES

Joseph Trimmer, an honorary member of Chapter 1747, died in late September. Trimmer was 92. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends.

A Star for the Chapter—and for You!

Margy Hill's creation is a guiding star for Chapter 1747. Donated by her husband, Peter, the quilt is being raffled this year. Tickets will be available until the June Installation

Luncheon meeting, when the lucky winner will be announced.

But don't wait until June. Raffle tickets could be a great gift or stocking stuffer for the holidays or for birthdays. You can even copy the sweepstakes advertisements and offer some "You May Have Already Won" single tickets for April Fools Day, or for any date at all.

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. You do not have to be at the luncheon to present the winning stub; but you will miss a good time (and a good meal) if you don't attend.



CHAPTER 1747 BUDGET REPORT

Balance on: September 1, 2014	\$2011.88
Receipts:	247.92
Disbursements:	345.00
Balance on: September 30, 2014	\$1914.80

Now Is the Time...

Yes, it is time--time to decide if you want to get a colorful, timely issue of the Chapter 1747 Newsletter via your computer, tablet, or smart phone. Just e-mail webmaster Howard "Flash" Gordon at flash@acm.org. Put NARFE Newsletter in the subject line and include your zip code in the message. Flash must keep a written record of requests so you can be added to the e-mail permissions list and your address removed from the mail stickers National sends us.

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

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

DATE: Thursday, December 18, 2014

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

MENU: Choice of one entrée (to be made upon arrival at restaurant)

- ◆ Broiled Crab Cake
- ◆ New York Strip Steak
- ◆ Chicken Parmesan
- ◆ Vegetarian Meal available on request

Includes: Salad, Baked Potato and Green Beans with Steak or Crab Cake, Pasta with Chicken, Rolls

Plus: Iced Tea, Coffee, Hot Tea, or any non-alcoholic beverage, Dessert

COST \$26.00 (includes tax and tip)

Payable at sign-up at November 20 membership meeting, OR 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 **Dec. 12**
Cancellation policy: **No refunds** will be made if reservations are not cancelled by **Dec. 15**.

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON ▶ HOLIDAY LUNCHEON ▶ HOLIDAY LUNCHEON ▶ HOLIDAY LUN-

DAYS TO REMEMBER

November 2 Daylight Savings Time ends)
November 11 Veterans Day
November 22 Thanksgiving Day

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.

Quilt Raffle Ticket Order Blank

Name _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

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

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

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	jessicafforman@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	

Holiday Luncheon

December 18, 2014 Social: 11:30, Lunch: Noon

At The Blue Dolphin, Rte 3 South

Eat, Drink, Visit, and Be Merry