



NARFE NEWSLETTER

GREATER BOWIE-CROFTON AREA CHAPTER 1747

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

Volume 34 No.10

NARFE1747.org

December 2014

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:** 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.

❖ **General Meeting:** January 15 10:00AM, Bowie Senior Center. Update for filing your 2014 tax forms.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JERRY KURSBAN

We ARE Fading without You...

The Chapter 1747 Executive Board established a Nominating Committee to find members who will serve as Chapter 1747 officers for the period beginning in July 2015. Our new officers will be installed at our June 20, 2015 installation meeting. The members of our 1747 Nominating Committee are Bob Cullen, Ed Bice, Jackie Wilson, and Louise Cole. Their phone numbers and email addresses can be found on the last page of your Chapter 1747 monthly newsletter or on our 1747 website.

All of the Executive Board attendees expressed significant concern regarding whether a sufficient number of members will be willing to volunteer to serve. Several other NARFE chapters expressed similar concerns at the October 30 Maryland Federation meeting. In recent years, a number of NARFE chapters have merged because only a few of their members were willing to volunteer their services as officers. What will be the fate of our chapter? Will members step forward or will we need to merge with another chapter in order to survive?

WE NEED NEW BLOOD. PLEASE CONTACT ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF OUR NOMINATING COMMITTEE. KEEP CHAPTER 1747 HEALTHY!

STATE LEGISLATION

Ed Bice

Elections Results—What's Next?

Republican Larry Hogan overcame an 2 to 1 Democratic registration advantage to secure an upset victory over Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown in the November general election. Hogan won Maryland's suburban and rural counties while Brown won the urban areas of Baltimore City, Montgomery, Prince George's, and Charles Counties. Republicans gained seats in the General Assembly as they also did in 2010 although the Democrats continue to hold a strong majority position. The Democratic incumbents who lost were more conservative and represented areas in which Hogan won. For example, Appropriations Chair Norman Conway (D-District 38B) was defeated. Leadership of the General Assembly will remain unchanged as Senate President Mike Miller (D-District 27) and House Speaker Mike Busch(D-District 33) were reelected

Gov.-Elect Hogan campaigned on the issues of cutting spending, reducing taxes and growing the lagging economy. On November 12, the legislature's chief budget officer indicated that Maryland faces a shortfall of nearly \$600 million in next year's operating budget of \$16 billion and larger gaps are expected in the years to come.

This situation presents a great challenge to Hogan and his agenda as he works on his budget for introduction in the 2015 session. This situation also presents a challenge to the State Legislative Committee as we finalize our plans for the session starting in mid-January. Last year our Long Term Care Insurance bill had a solid chance of coming out of committee to our satisfaction, but an early February revenue shortfall announcement doomed our bill along with several others.



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FROM NARFE MAGAZINE

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 these general objectives.

MIDTERM ELECTION. The November 4 midterm national election produced a high tide that favored the Republican party, which took control of the U.S. Senate, added to its majority in the House of Representatives, and added to the number of state Governors, including Maryland. NARFE compiles a weekly update of legislative news which is available by phone (toll free) at 877-217-8234 or via email online at www.narfe.org. There is also a one-stop site which enables members to send a letter to Congress.

COLA ADJUSTMENT. Federal annuities and Social Security benefits will increase 1.7 percent beginning in January, based on the cost-of-living (COLA). This adjustment is based on CPI-W, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers. NARFE SUPPORTS a switch to CPI-E for calculating COLAs for seniors, since this method would provide a more accurate measure of senior spending, particularly for health care. NARFE will continue to strongly OPPOSE a switch to Chained CPI-U for calculating COLAs, a method which reduces the growth of future increases.

FEDERAL BENEFITS OPEN SEASON. The Open Season for Federal Employee Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) enrollment changes, which began on October 7, will end on December 8, 2014. There are 257 health plan choices available during the open season. The overall average total premium increase for annuitants and non-postal employees is 3.2 percent, and 3.4 percent for postal employees. The 2015 plan brochures for all of the FEHBP plans can be viewed online and downloaded at www.opm.gov/healthcare-insurance. OPM also offers a comparison tool at its website, OPM.gov that permits you to evaluate up to four plans at the same time. Your December 2014 NARFE magazine contains extensive information with respect to the Open Season on pages 32—50. This information is one of the many benefits you receive from your NARFE membership.

INCENTIVE TO RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS. NARFE National and the Maryland Federation will each pay a \$10 reward for recruiting a new member before December 31, 2014. That is an easy way to earn \$20. See page 63 of your NARFE November magazine for a NARFE Membership Application.

The Time Has Come

According to both the Chapter Board and the Walrus, you need to make a decision. Do you want an easy, colorful, up-to-date, elec-

tronic copy of this newsletter, or do you want to stay with expensive, slow-to-arrive black-and-white printed pages? The Board thinks that going to an e-mail format with a few printed copies for those without computers could save a great deal of money—money the chapter really needs. Are you willing to try a new way to stay in touch? If you are, 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.

Membership

This report covers the time period from July 15 to Nov. 16, 2014. Our chapter has 687 members. Five new members joined during this time. We welcome Theresa Furr, Bob Nissen, Theresa Otto, Carolyn Scott, and Learia Williams to the chapter. Ten members were reinstated and Barbara Sieger transferred into the chapter. Welcome, Barbara. Five members transferred out of our chapter, three of them went to the e-chapter. Second notices were sent to 28 members. Ten of the twenty-eight have paid their dues. Finally, another 28 members have been dropped for non-renewal. If you know these members ask them to rejoin: RICHARD T BAER, LINDA E BASS, RUTH L BERESKIN, PAUL H FINGER, VICTOR R HOLMQUIST, LISA HUGHES, JULIA JACKSON, MICHAEL KESLER, CLARA J. KIRCHER, IRFAN KUCUKCETIN, ANN M MCDONOUGH, LEE MCGIRR, GREGORY MCINTYRE, SARAH L PERKINS, ANITA PURCELL, IRVIN A. QUEJA, JULIA R. RAUCHEISEN, RON REMAGEN, PATRICIA ROCHESTER, ROBERT C. SELBY, JOSEPH M. SHEEHAN, MAURICE SHELEY, EILEEN SHOE-MAKER, A. DAVID SPEVACK, and BETTY WISE

CHAPTER 1747 BUDGET REPORT

Balance on: September 1, 2014	\$1914.80
Receipts:	391.26
Disbursements:	264.40
Balance on: September 30, 2014	\$2041.66

DAYS TO REMEMBER

December 16	Hanukkah (begins at sundown)
December 25	Christmas Day
December 31	New Year's Eve

♪ ♪ Baby, It's Cold Outside—Buy a Raffle Ticket for our Quilt Today! ♪

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-

There's Still Time...

To sign up for the Holiday Lunch,
To buy some Raffle Tickets,
To try the newsletter by e-mail
To volunteer to do a job for Chapter 1747

Try One Now

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.

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