



NARFE NEWSLETTER

GREATER BOWIE-CROFTON AREA CHAPTER 1747

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

Volume 34 No.6

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February 2015

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:** February 19 10:00AM. Bowie Senior Center. Tracey Hanavin-Oasis, Senior Advisers: Prepare for Major Life Changes.

❖ **General Meeting:** March 19 10:00AM. Bowie Senior Center. The Honorable Lauren Parker, Register of Wills: Update your Will, Trust and other Final Documents.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JERRY KURSBAN

Tireless Advocacy and Trusted Advice for Active and Retired Federal Employees.

In the January 2015 issue of NARFE National President Richard Thisson reminds us that in 2015 "active and retired federal employees will certainly face attacks on our earned benefits. I want to remind members that we must be involved in grass-roots advocacy and back candidates of both parties who support NARFE positions, success in protecting our benefits dictates that we be NON-PARTISAN in our efforts." In short, NARFE supports or opposes ISSUES that benefit our members' interests.

United Seniors Of Maryland Forum

Register now for the United Seniors of Maryland (USM) forum on Wednesday, January 28, 2015. The forum will be held on the main floor West Wing of the Miller Senate Office

NARFE supports legislation to provide a 3.8 percent raise for Federal workers in 2016. Companion bills H.R. 304 and S. 164 have been introduced. Tell your congress person that you support these bills.

Building, 11 Bladen Street, Annapolis. The bus shuttle from the stadium will be available. You must show a Maryland issued State ID to enter. The cost is \$15 which includes a light breakfast and a boxed lunch. Beginning at 9:00 AM, speakers will include Governor Larry Hogan, Senate President Michael Miller, House Speaker Michael Bush, and Comptroller Peter Franchot. This will be followed by a caucus from 11:15–12:30 and a boxed lunch from 12:30–1:00. Mail your payment to Elizabeth Weglein, United Seniors of Maryland, PO Box 1094, Sparks, MD 21152.

Maryland Federation Of Chapters

The Federation will hold a board meeting on February 3, 2015 at the Bowie Comfort Inn from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM. The cost is \$20. Reservations are due on Friday January 23.

The 42nd Maryland Federation State Convention will be held Sunday evening, April 25 through Tuesday, April 28, 2015, at the Carousel Resort Hotel in Ocean City. The purpose of the biennial convention is to elect officers for the next two years, discuss possible Federation resolutions and exchange views with senior Maryland State officials. Reservations for this meeting must be made by March 27 to obtain the special discount rate. Please inform Jerry Kursban at 301-261-3329 or jkursban@gmail.com if you would like to attend.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

As you know, in the November 4, 2014 election, Republicans won control of the U.S. Senate and added to their existing majority in the House, such that the Republican majority in the House is the largest since the 1940s. Republicans also substantially increased their numbers of state governors and state legislators, as occurred in Maryland, which elected its third

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Republican governor since 1950. See page 46 of your January 2015 NARFE magazine for details.

NARFE expects to face several challenges in supporting legislation that protects federal and postal retirees' existing retirement and health benefits from reductions, and protects current federal civilian and postal employees' pay, retirement and health benefits. I hope that you will take a few minutes to examine pages 39–42 of your January 2015 NARFE magazine for a comprehensive summary of NARFE's Legislative Program for the 114th Congress.

Please note that February 3 is the deadline to register for the 2015 NARFE Legislative Training Conference which will be held at the Renaissance Capitol View Hotel in Arlington, VA, March 14–17. See pages 12–13 of your February 2015 NARFE magazine for details.

STATE LEGISLATION
Ed BICE

General Assembly in Session

Maryland's General Assembly opened the 2015 90-day session on January 14. An unusually large group of new lawmakers took the oath of office that day. More than 40 percent of delegates and 25 percent of the senators taking the oath were new. Delegate Alex Platt (D-District 17, Montgomery County), was the youngest new delegate at age 26.

Governor-elect Larry Hogan (R) was inaugurated on January 21. He will face a sizable budget deficit of some 750 million dollars and a state legislation strongly controlled by Democrats. Governor Hogan presented his first budget two days later. He campaigned on a platform of cutting taxes, reducing government and growing the economy.

SLC Legislative Program

The State Legislative Committee (SLC) has finalized their 2015 legislative program document. Copies of their program were given out at our January chapter meeting. The document is on our website, narfe1747.org. The program is divided by specific initiatives and recommendations dealing with 1.) Stopping the migration of Marylanders and their buying power to other states and 2.) Promoting long term care insurance to reduce the state MEDICAID burden.

CHAPTER 1747 BUDGET REPORT

Balance on: December 1, 2014	\$2754.39
Receipts:	850.31
Disbursements:	1575.50
Balance on: December 31, 2014	\$2029.20

Weather Won't Be Warmer Soon, But We See A Way Around It.

Winter is still around in Maryland—and many other states, too. We're sorry, but even if you buy the winning raffle ticket today, you won't get your starry hand-made quilt until the June luncheon. But don't give up hope. By then, the weather will be warm, and you can save the quilt until winter comes roaring back. Raffle tickets will be available until June, at 1 ticket for \$2, 3 tickets for \$5, or 7 tickets for \$10. Buy yours at the monthly meeting or use the Raffle Ticket Order on page 3.



Margy Hill's warm quilt can still be won if you buy another raffle ticket (or more) before June.

Please make your check payable to NARFE Chapter 1747 and indicate "Quilt Raffle Tickets" on the memo line. Mail the form 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 June luncheon to present the winning stub; but you will miss a good time (and a good meal) if you aren't there.

Free is Better—Would You Try It?

It's not a major decision for most people to decide that getting something free is better than paying for whatever it might cost. And it shouldn't be a big surprise to learn that free doesn't often mean "with no extra, or hidden, costs." Chapter 1747 is paying quite a bit for what most members think is free. What is it? No, it isn't meeting space, or refreshments, or gifts for speakers, or other NARFE items. It's not even NARFE magazine or support for conventions. You pay for all those items through your dues, your work for the Chapter, or through special costs for individual functions. Plus, sometimes, you pay into NARFE PAC to help support lobbying activities. So what is it you don't know that you are paying for now? It's the largest item in the budget—printing and mailing costs for this newsletter.

The Board would much prefer to save this money. But many members haven't even considered trying the web edition. It's worth it, and you need only a few minutes to be taught how to access our website. If you have a computer, try it. You don't have to make a formal choice between print and paper to try the web issue. You don't even need a computer of your own, because you can use a local library's free computers (and sometimes get librarians to walk you

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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

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through the steps). You do need internet service, but if you have e-mail, you already have all you need to get to our website.

If enough people are interested in trying the web edition (and using everything else posted at NARFE1747.org) we can arrange a short demonstration and/or detailed print "How-To" flyers at an upcoming meeting or in the newsletter. Please e-mail Bob Cullen (see page 4) that you are interested in further information about what is available on our website and how easy it is to reach it. This does not remove you from the print issue, which requires a formal e-mail with specific information sent to Flash, but a "show me what to do." See the simple instructions below.

1. Get on the internet by clicking the browser of your choice (Firefox, Chrome, Safari, et al.) on your screen.
2. Enter narfe1747.org into the empty box at the top of the screen. This box is usually the first box on the page.
3. There is a large blue box on the left side of the web page. Look for the word "Newsletters" in that box. Put your cursor on that word and click your mouse. A new page showing the months will open.
4. Again, move your cursor to the year and month you want to read. Click on this month. The newsletter will open.

Once you get to the edition posted on the web, take a good look around. Information is available earlier on the web than on a printed page. You never have to worry about losing your copy because it is always on the web. You cannot erase or misplace issues on the web, even if you hit the wrong key. Only the webmaster can remove items, so no fear. And everything is in color.

Enjoy your visit to the web site!

Membership

This report covers the time period from Nov. 15 to Dec. 14, 2014. Our chapter has 683 members. Two new members joined during this time. We welcome Willie Turner and Vanessa Washington to the chapter. Two members were reinstated and no members transferred into the chapter. Five members transferred out of our chapter, four of them went to the this area's e-chapter. Second notices were sent to 18 members. Five of the eighteen have paid their dues. Finally, another five members have been dropped for non-renewal. If you know these members ask them to rejoin: JUNE GROVE, DONALD HARRIS, THOMAS JONES, MARIAN SCHUBUER and MARIE SIEBERT.

What's Happening?



Last month, Diane Polangin of Total Tax Service presented her usual timely and helpful tips on preparing your income tax returns for 2014. In addition to highlighting changes in the forms since last year's return, Polangin passed on several tips on how to avoid being called for an audit. For example, if you have unusually high medical expenses for several years, a cover letter may help. Plan now to attend next year's Tax Tips program and learn other preparation tips.

DAYS TO REMEMBER

February 12	Lincoln's Birthday
February 14	Valentine's Day
February 16	President's Day
February 22	Washington's Birthday

Greater Bowie-Crofton Area NARFE News

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CHAPTER BOARD

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Assistant Treasurer	Louise Cole	410-672-6528	col9135@aol.com

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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	
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NARFE-Net Coordinator	Howard (Flash) Gordon	301-464-2745	flash@acm.org
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Photographer	Frank Lee	410-672-5065	fllee0716@verizon.net
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Sunshine	Marjorie Laios	301-262-1566	

What's Next?

February 19, 10:00 AM

Tracy Hanavin, Oasis Senior Advisors:
Adapting to Major Life-Changing Events.