



NARFE NEWSLETTER

GREATER BOWIE-CROFTON AREA CHAPTER 1747

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

Volume 34 No.7

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

❖ **General Meeting:** April 16 10:00AM. Bowie Senior Center. Gene Sumi, Homestead Gardens Education Coordinator, will speak and answer questions on Spring Gardening.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JERRY KURSBAN

March has been designated as "NARFE-PAC Month." NARFE-PAC is a key element in pursuing NARFE'S Mission "To support legislation beneficial to current and potential federal annuitants and to oppose legislation contrary to their interests." NARFE national president Richard G. Thissen reminds us in his message in our March issue of our NARFE magazine that "There are many indications that federal employee benefits will be front and center in congressional budget discussions this year." (page 4)

As you already know, there has been a major change in political financing since the Supreme Court's decision in *Citizens United vs. Federal Election Commission*. Political spending by Super PACs, which are permitted to raise unlimited sums of money and to spend these sums to advocate for or against political candidates, has increased dramatically. (page 22)

I urge you to read carefully the "NARFE-PAC in the Age of Super PACS" article contained on pages 22—30 of your March NARFE Magazine. You may note that NARFE-PAC is a segregated fund that includes only voluntary contributions from NARFE members made specifically for political purposes (page 24). And read NARFE-PAC Questions and Answers and NARFE-PAC: by the Numbers (page 27). Note that member contributions to NARFE-PAC have decreased over time (page 26)

and that NARFE leadership has set a goal of raising \$1,000,000 during the 2015—2016 election (page 27).

What are you personally willing to contribute to help NARFE support and protect our interests? For example, dropping a dime (10¢) each day of the year in a piggy bank would amount to \$36 in a year. Five cents per day would amount to eighteen dollars per year, approximately the cost of a large pizza. Would you be willing to forego one large pizza and contribute that money to NARFE-PAC? If you would, please take action and do it now.

How do you contribute to NARFE-PAC? It's easy. You can use the envelope on the cover wrap of your March 2015 NARFE Magazine. OR you can give online at the NARFE website, www.narfe.org. You will need your member number, which is on the cover of your magazine, if you want to pay using a credit card. OR call NARFE Headquarters at 703-838-7760. Of course, you can always give at our Chapter # 1747 meetings.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

NARFE's 2015 Legislative Training Conference. Our regional meeting will be held Saturday, March 14 through Tuesday, March 17, 2015, at the Renaissance Arlington Capitol View Hotel. Advocacy before Congress is Narfe's Core Mission. In addition to training and networking opportunities, attendees will visit their legislators. If you have questions about the conference, send an email message to sweissmann@narfe.org or call 703-838-7760 and ask for the Legislative Department.

3.8 Percent Pay Raise Proposed For 2016. Maryland Senator Ben Cardin cosponsored S.164 with Sen Brian Schatz, D-HI, to introduce legislation that would provide federal employees with a 3.8 percent raise in 2016. More than 33 representatives in the House, including several from Maryland and our

Continued on page 2

1747 chapter area, have signed on as sponsors for H.R. 304, a similar proposal. NARFE has taken a position to strongly support these pay increase proposals.

U.S. Postal Service Should Continue Six-Day Mail Delivery. NARFE supports this resolution, H.R. 12. NARFE has taken a leadership role in the Federal Postal Coalition, a multi-organization advocacy alliance which includes thirty-one national organizations. Alan Lopatin, who has served with NARFE for several years, has recently become the chair.

Six Weeks of Paid Sick Leave In Connection With the Birth or Adoption of a Child or for Other Sick Leave-Eligible Purposes. In a January 15 presidential memorandum, President Obama directed federal agencies to implement this proposal. NARFE supports this measure, and has added the proposal to its Legislative Program for the 114th Congress. NARFE President Thissen was present at the press conference when the memorandum was announced.

It should be clear from these items that NARFE is actively and aggressively promoting your interests. If your financial situation permits, isn't NARFE-PAC Month a good time for you to make a contribution to NARFE-PAC?

STATE LEGISLATION
Ed Bice

This year NARFE focused on two state-level goals.

SB 06—Tax Credit for Long Term Care Insurance Premiums—was heard in the Senate Budget and Tax Committee on February 4. The bill initiated and supported by NARFE for several years has remained as our most important legislation. The bill is supported by the following organizations and individuals with written and oral testimony: Maryland National Capital Home Care Association (MNCHA), Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (MRSPA), United Seniors of Maryland (USM), Ronald Souders (Funk and Bolton), American Council of Insurers, Baltimore Jewish Council, Comptroller Peter Franchot, LifeSpan Network, Alliance of Retired Americans, Alzheimer's Association, Dave Johnson from Kris Leigh Assisted Living, and Beth Wiseman from Baltimore County Association of Senior Organizations(BCASO). Testifying for NARFE were Bill Ferguson, Chapter 422, Paul Schwartz, Chapter 1892 and our own Ed Bice. The companion bill, HB 822, sponsored by Del. Frush (District 21) will be heard in March

HB 144—Income Tax Subtraction Modification—Retirement Income. This bill, sponsored by Delegate Krebs (District 9) and also supported by NARFE, was heard on February 11. The bill extends the definition of income for the purpose of pension exclusion to include IRAs, Roth IRAs and some others. Former Senator Kramer (currently Secretary of Aging in the new administration) is supporting the bill. Dick Strombotne, Chapter 581, presented written testimony for NARFE.

**We're Close to Half-Way There,
But We Need To Go Much Further!**

We're still selling Raffle Tickets, but we are only about half-way to our informal \$700.00 goal. Actually, we would really like to raise more than a mere \$700—we would be even happier with \$800 or more. So **now** is the time to reach out to your neighbors, friends, and family to remember how cold they were with more than seven inches of snow in mid-February.



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. 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.

CHAPTER 1747 BUDGET REPORT

Balance on: December 1, 2014	\$2029.20
Receipts:	470.85
Disbursements:	305.81
Balance on: December 31, 2014	\$2194.24

DAYS TO REMEMBER

March 8	Daylight Savings Time Begins
March 17	St. Patrick's Day
March 20	First Day of Spring
March 29	Palm Sunday
April 3	Good Friday
April 4	Passover
April 5	Easter



Like us on:
[facebook.com/narfe1747](https://www.facebook.com/narfe1747)

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

HIGHLIGHTS



From Last Month... Donna Jordan of Oasis Senior Advisors provided those who attended our February 19 Chapter 1747 meeting with a lively and informative presentation regarding "How to Prepare for Life Emergencies." A majority of people believe that family members will care for them when they are no longer fully able to care for themselves. Unfortunately, it often turns out that the affected individual requires a level of care that exceeds the capability of the family to provide. Donna stressed the importance of knowing in advance which continuing care or assisted living facilities best meet your needs, and how to evaluate them, a service which Oasis provides at no cost. Handouts included an "Information for Life kit, which should be filled out for family members, a "Vial of Life" form which should be available for emergency responders, and a "Five Wishes" document in which you communicate your personal, emotional, medical and spiritual

needs. You can obtain these documents by calling Donna Jordan, who is a Certified Senior Advisor, by calling 443-539-6077, or by emailing her at djordan@youroasisadvisor.com.

And the future... Our featured speaker for our March 19 meeting will be Lauren Parker, who will inform us about what you should do to update your will, what it needs to address, and how to make certain it is properly prepared, witnessed and stored. I have heard Lauren speak before, and promise you an informative and interesting presentation. **DON'T MISS IT.**

Are You **COLORIZED** Yet?

Follow these simple instructions and see if you like the colorful web version better than the black and white mail version of the newsletter.

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 for that month will open.

Greater Bowie-Crofton Area NARFE News

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	Donna Minner (Crofton)	410-721-9799	
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What's Next?

March 19, 10:00 AM

The Honorable Lauren Parker - Register of Wills

How—and Why—to Keep Your Important Documents Ready for Use.