



# NARFE NEWSLETTER

GREATER BOWIE-CROFTON AREA CHAPTER 1747

**National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association**

Volume 34 No.8

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

❖ **General Meeting:** May 21 10:00AM. Kenhill Center. Maryland Legislative Session Results Update. Elections of chapter officers for 2015 to 2017..

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*JERRY KURSBAN*

The clock is running but you still have time to register to attend the 42nd Maryland Federation of NARFE Chapters Convention in Ocean City, Maryland, from Sunday April 26 through Tuesday April 28 at the Carousel Resort and Hotel. To register for the Convention, contact Jerry Kursban at 301-261-3329 **no later than** April 4, 2015. Checks or money orders in the amount of \$45 must be made payable to Maryland Federation of Chapters, NARFE. You can check in on Sunday April 26 and enjoy a reception provided by the hotel. The business meeting will begin on Monday April 27, and conclude on Tuesday afternoon in time for you to drive home.

Your \$45.00 check covers the conference registration fee and covers all material provided to delegates plus two served lunches on Monday and Tuesday. The Monday evening banquet also costs \$45.00, and will include your choice of four entrees, and a live performance by *Image*, an excellent band which performed two years ago.

The purpose of the biennial Convention is to elect officers for the next two years, to discuss resolutions germane to the federation, and to exchange views with senior federal and Maryland State officials on issues related to the protection and enhancement of current and retired Federal employees earned benefits.

There will also be workshops related to membership and legislative issues.

Congressman Elijah Cummings, who represents Maryland's 7th Congressional District and is the ranking member of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, will address the Convention on Monday. National NARFE President Dick Thissen, Legislative Director Jessica Klement, and Marketing Director Briget Borel will also address the Convention.

So the clock is ticking. Don't delay. Take action **now** to register for the Convention and obtain your banquet tickets.

## FEDERAL LEGISLATION

*JERRY KURSBAN*

I attended the NARFE 2015 Legislative Training Conference held at the Renaissance Arlington Capital View Hotel on March 14-17. After two days of briefings on issues and training on how to pursue grassroots advocacy we applied our new expertise at prearranged meetings with an assigned Congressperson or one of their staff.

NARFE leadership had selected three Legislative Priorities for the 114th Congress which we addressed at these meetings. The three primary initiatives are to:

- Improve and protect the affordability of and choice provided by the Federal Employees Health Benefits Recovery Program (FEBHP)
- Support fair and full cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) to federal retirement annuities.
- Support compensation and staffing levels necessary for an effective federal workforce.

Additional priorities include Postal Reform, Paid Parental Leave, Improved Retirement Processing and other proposals. Currently there are 5.1 million active and retired Federal and

Continued on page 2

Postal employees, of which 305,909 reside in Maryland. There are 14,854 NARFE members and 32 NARFE chapters in Maryland.

In your April NARFE magazine, you may have noted in the NARFE Bill Tracker on page 12 that Donna Edwards, our District 4 Representative, sponsored H.R.785, which would repeal both contribution increases and return contributions to the previous 0.8 percent. A more detailed explanation of H.R. 785 is contained in a separate article on page 9 of the magazine. I visited her office on March 17 as the designated Legislative Committee Advocacy Team (LCAT) for the Maryland NARFE Federation. I had a one-half-hour discussion with her Legislative Director, Chris Schlosser, who took copious notes concerning our NARFE issues. Incidentally, he appeared to be highly impressed with both our monthly NARFE magazine and our 1747 Chapter newsletter, which includes a Federal Legislative section. He requested being placed on our 1747 newsletter distribution list.

As a personal note, the NARFE 2015 Legislative Training Conference was conducted in a highly professional and organized manner. I believe we have a truly competent national NARFE organization lobbying to protect and enhance our benefits.

## STATE LEGISLATION

*Ed Bice*

The 2015 legislative session is particularly challenging for everyone for two reasons. Maryland faces a \$850 million fiscal deficit based in part on a sluggish economy and in part by federal government cuts which have led to higher rates of unemployment during the recent recession. These federal government cuts have resulted in lower income tax revenue for local and state governments. Upon taking office, Governor Hogan proposed budgets and other actions to eliminate the deficit in this year and the next year.

However, the State Legislative Committee (SLC) has remained involved in legislation while being challenged by a reduced state budget and fiscal notes attached to bills indicating whether or not legislation would increase state expenditures. We continued to emphasize many areas already targeted in previous sessions. Our long term care insurance bill - Tax Credit for LTC Insurance Premiums, SB 6, was heard in committee on February 4 and HB 822 was heard on March 10. These bills would annualize the present one-time \$500 tax credit in two \$250 phases for tax years 2016 and 2017, increase to \$500 for 2018 and continue at that rate annually for new or returning purchasers. This year we have the support of 13 other organizations which agree with us that the legislation is needed and would reduce the State's future MEDICAID costs.

The SLC has continued to support other bills: SB 194 and HB 144- Income Tax Modification- Retirement Income. These bills broaden the definition of income eligible for pension exclusion. We supported HB 392- Subtraction Modification- Retirement Bill which would raise the maximum pension exclusion in seven steps Other supported bills include SB 374 and HB

405 - Maryland False Claims Act; HB 221 - Commission on Tax Policy Reform and Fairness; HB 177 - Subtraction Modification - Retirement Income (Military); HB 99 - Tax Modification, Retirement Income, Law Enforcement, Correction Officers, Fire, Rescue, Emergency Personnel, and SB 695- Public Information Act - Enforcement, Fees, Exceptions.

We voiced our opposition to HB 646 - Subtraction Modification Retirement Income. This bill reduces the maximum pension exclusion and therefore will cause a great number of people to pay more income taxes. The outcome of our legislation is uncertain.

## CHAPTER 1747 BUDGET REPORT

Balance on: February 1, 2015	\$2194.24
Receipts:	448.49
Disbursements:	345.00
Balance on: February 28, 2015	\$2297.73

## Membership

This report covers the time period from December 15, 2014 to February 14, 2015. Our chapter has 676 members. Three new members joined during this time. We welcome Beverly Bradley, Mary Herbert and Norma White to the chapter. Six members were reinstated and no members transferred into the chapter. Seven members transferred out of our chapter, six of them went to the e-chapter. Second notices were sent to 39 members. Almost half—16 of them—have paid their dues. Finally, another 14 members have been dropped for non-renewal. If you know these members ask them to rejoin: Carolyn Brown, Barbara Bush, Cathy Chagami, Beverly Coleman, John Daniels, Hoyt Galloway, Evelyn Holland Walker, Barry Johnson, Michael Minogue, Anacletus Queri, Maurice Ross, Willie Turner, Violeta Vazquez and Darrel Williams.

## Decisions, Decisions...

Come May, there are decisions to be made. They determine where the chapter will go next year. In fact, they determine **if** the chapter will be next year.

We need new officers. Will **you** contribute your time and energy? If not, who will? Will we have officers to run the chapter? If we have officers, will we have money for chapter functions? Will you buy a raffle ticket, pay your dues, or get your newsletter by e-mail to help control chapter expenses? Will you attend programs?

Would you be one of the 156 people per month, chapter members, Maryland Federation officers, Maryland chapter presidents, State delegates and senators, and US representatives and senators who use the e-mail newsletter? Will you tackle one project, attend one function, show up at one meeting, or are you one of the 600 or so members in name only? We need **real** people, not just numbers, to keep fighting to preserve and provide new benefits.

# 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

## Coming in June...

**Thursday, June 18, 2015**  
**Nautilus Diner, Route 3 North, Crofton**  
**11:30 am until ?**  
**\$25 per person includes tax and tip**

Your choice of:

- ½ Roast Chicken
- Roast Beef
- Broiled Tiliapia
- 2 Broiled Pork Chops
- Fried Alaskan Pollack
- Garden Salad with Chicken (no potato and vegetable included)
- Vegetarian Meal available on request.

Plus:

- Soup, Baked Potato and Mixed Vegetables, Nonalcoholic Beverage, and your choice of Dessert--Strawberry Shortcake, Chocolate Mousse Cake, or Coconut Layer Cake.

Lauren Parker, the Anne Arundel County Registrar of Wills, and some of her Chapter 1747 audience.



### DAYS TO REMEMBER

April 3	Good Friday
April 4	Passover
April 5	Easter
May 9	Crofton Parade at 10:00 AM
May 23	Bowie Parade at 11:00 AM
May 25	Bowie Memorial Day Wreath Laying Ceremony. at 11:00

Luncheon reservations may be made at our April or May membership meetings or by mail to NARFE Chapter 1747, PO Box 504, Bowie, MD 20718. Please make checks payable to NARFE Chapter 1747. *Payments must be made by June 12. No refunds will be made if reservations are not cancelled by June 15.*

For information contact

Bob Cullen at 301-262-4783 or [ba3537@aol.com](mailto:ba3537@aol.com) or Louise Cole at 410-672-6528 or [col9135@aol.com](mailto:col9135@aol.com).



### Who Will Win the Star?

We don't know yet, but one thing is obvious—the more tickets you've bought, the better your chances are! So check under the cushions for some change, and buy a few extra tickets at the May and June Meetings. Raffle tickets will be available until June. Cost is 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 above. 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 win.

### Greater Bowie-Crofton Area NARFE News

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## CHAPTER BOARD

### Officers

President	Jerry Kursban	301-261-3329	jkursban@gmail.com
1st Vice President	Lillie Watson	301-383-1597	lwatson16@hotmail.com
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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	

## What's Next?

**May 21, 10:00 AM Kenhill Center**

**Maryland Legislative Update**

**Chapter Elections, 2015–2017**