



# NARFE NEWSLETTER

GREATER BOWIE-CROFTON AREA CHAPTER 1747

**National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association**

Volume 34 No.10

facebook.com/narfe1747 or narfe1747.org

June 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:** June 18, 11.30 AM, Nautilus Diner, Rts. 3 North and 424, Crofton, Md. Cash Bar, 11:30, Luncheon, 12:00 Noon. Installation of 2015–2017 officers.

❖ **General Meeting: September 17.** The location, time and subject for this meeting will be announced in your August Newsletter. It will also be available on our website, narfe1747.org.

### *Editor's Note*

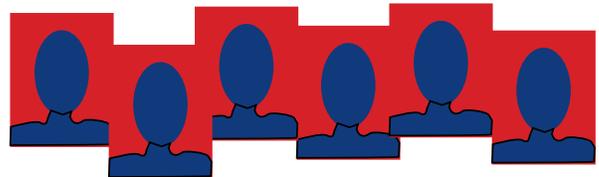
*This newsletter is the first of an experimental series of expanded issues available only on our website. From time to time, other issues may be expanded to include more detailed information and photographs.*

*This is also the last of our summer issues. Traditionally, NARFE chapters do not meet or publish newsletters during the summer months. Newsletters will resume with the September issue. Check the website (facebook.com/narfe1747 or narfe1747.org) or contact a board member for more current information.*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JERRY KURSBAN

At the Crofton Annual Armed Forces Parade on May 9, I was riding in Frances Steburg's car while Ed Bice and Donna Minner walked ahead of us carrying our unfurled NARFE banner. Frances and I were throwing candy at the kids and asking adults whether they were either active or retired federal employees, or knew someone who was. When we received an affirmative response, we gave them a NARFE membership brochure to fill in or a recent NARFE magazine. One lady, when asked, responded in a less than friendly manner. "What a very sweet deal



## 2015–2017 Officers Are Voted In

Officers for the 2015–2017 term beginning on 1 July 2015 were elected at our May general meeting. They are:

President	Jerry Kursban
First Vice President	Frances Steburg
Second Vice President	Lillie Watson
Secretary	Jacqueline Wilson
Treasurer	Howard Gordon
Assistant Treasurer	Louise Cole

The new officers will be installed at our June 18th luncheon at the Nautilus Diner. This event will also feature the quilt raffle as well as an award presentation to one of our chapter members from Blue Cross/Blue Shield.



you retired federal employees have." This was not exactly the response either Frances or I desired to hear. But this is not the first time I

have heard this or similar opinions expressed. Keep in mind that **A Person's Perception Is Their Reality.** So what is

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the evidence that retired federal employees already have "a very sweet deal?"

First, "Your federal pension is indexed for inflation. But mine isn't. Who else has an indexed pension?" A truer response would include facts such as, you are right, but your Social Security pension payment is indexed, and federal retirees who retired under CSRS do not receive Social Security. Because of windfall provisions, CSRS retirees do not receive full benefits from their spouse, either. But the spouse still pays the full Social Security tax.

Second, they believe that "Federal workers are highly over-paid." Only five counties in the United States have a median household income greater than \$100,000, and four of those five—Louden, Fairfax, Howard and Arlington counties—are located in the Washington Metropolitan Area. Further, 11 of the 21 highest median-income household counties—including Montgomery, Charles, Anne Arundel, Calvert, and St Mary's counties—are also located in the area. True again, but for every federal employee in the metropolitan area, there are five contractor employees. Further, the Washington Metropolitan Area has the highest percentage of dual-income households in the nation. And these dual-income households include the highest percentage of dual-income professionals in the country. Finally, more than 25 percent of federal employees have a post-graduate degree from college.

Third, "the federal workforce keeps expanding. Most federal workers are just pushing paper." Not true. Not including the U.S. Postal Service, the number of federal employees, which currently numbers approximately 2.8 million job holders, is no larger than it was 50 years ago, while the U.S. population has increased by 100 million during that time. Today two of three federal employees work for one of four agencies: the Departments of Defense, Homeland Security, Veteran's Affairs, and Justice. More than 50 percent of federal employees have a college degree compared with 35 percent of private sector workers. And a high proportion of the work these federal employees do requires professional, managerial, and administrative skills, not merely filling out paperwork forms.

Fourth, federal detractors believe that "you can't fire incompetent federal employees." Again, this is not true. In recent years, more than 10,000 workers have been fired annually for poor performance or misconduct. And thousands more volunteer to leave without being fired after having been counseled that their performance is not acceptable. Although the process may be somewhat more complex than in many private sector firms, there are rules in place which permit dismissal of federal civilian employees who are not performing effectively or who have displayed flagrant misconduct in their jobs.

I hope the information presented above will give you food for thought in the event you are confronted by someone espousing some of the widely held myths concerning the federal civilian workforce and the "sweet deal" that federal retirees have compared to the rest of the retiree population.

## **Last Call, Everyone! Last Call!**

**In British detective novels, this announcement means it is almost midnight, when most pubs close. If you want a drink, call out and pay your bill, because in five more minutes, it will be too late and you will be thirsty.**

**At Chapter 1747, It means that now until the June 18th luncheon is all the time left to purchase raffle tickets for our lovely star spangled quilt, handmade by Margie Hall.**

**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. 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.**



**Buy now or sigh later!**

## **STATE LEGISLATION**

*ED BICE*

The 435th Session of the Maryland General Assembly adjourned at midnight on April 13th. The session featured a new Governor and Administration in Annapolis and a host of first-



Four of Maryland's General Assembly delegates report on the outcome of this year's legislation efforts.

term legislators in the General Assembly. In the April issue of our chapter newsletter I listed the bills we supported in the session. Three of our supported bills passed both houses and will be signed into law by Governor Hogan. They are the Maryland False Claim Act, the Public Information Act, Enforcement, Fees, Exceptions, and Subtraction Modification-Retirement Income (Military). In addition, a bill we testified against, HB 646 the Subtraction Modification-Retirement Income, was not passed out of committee. Unlike earlier years, when none of the bills we supported passed both houses, this session must be considered a rousing success.

Thank you to Dick Strombotne, Bill Ferguson, Gary Roundtree and Paul Schwartz, all members of the State Legislative Committee, for their written and spoken testimony in support of our efforts in the 2015 session.

### Membership

This report covers the time period from February 15, 2015 to April 14, 2015. Our chapter has 657 members. Three new members joined during this time. We welcome Diane Furr, William Long and Linda Spevack to the chapter. Eight members were reinstated and no members transferred into the chapter. Three members transferred out of our chapter and into the e-chapter. Second notices were sent to 27 members. Almost half—12 of them—have paid their dues. Finally, another 18 members have been dropped for non-renewal. If you know these members ask them to rejoin: MICHAEL ALEXANDER, JOHN BALDWIN, GREGORY BARKER, PAIGE BRIDGES, SIDNEY COX, RAYMOND CUNNINGHAM, EDNA FAZIO, ED KANSLER, THOMAS LEE, ENRIQUE LOPEZ, DOROTHY NEVITT, EDA ONGELE, LYNN PARKS, BARBARA PENCE, MAXINE SHARPE, LEVONIA STANCIL, K STEFANSSON and ROXIE WICKLINE.

### CHAPTER 1747 BUDGET REPORT

Balance on: April 1, 2015	\$2706.50
Receipts:	729.20
Disbursements:	145.00
Balance on: April 30, 2015	\$3290.70

### DAYS TO REMEMBER

June 6	Bowiefest; 11 AM–6 PM
June 14	Flag Day
June 21	Father's Day, Summer Begins

### 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



# ***Got your glad rags ready? All you need now is your reservation!***

***The Place: Nautilus Diner, Route 3 North, Crofton***

***The Date: Thursday, June 18, 2015***

***The Time: 11:30 am until ?***

***The Cost: \$25 per person includes tax and tip***



Your choice of:

- ½ Roast Chicken
- Broiled Tiliapia
- Fried Alaskan Pollack
- Roast Beef
- 2 Broiled Pork Chops
- 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.

*Luncheon reservations may still be made 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).*



## 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	Frank Evans	301-464-8829	fbrde@verizon.net
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	

**Installation Luncheon**  
**June 18, 11:30 AM Nautilus Diner**