



NARFE NEWSLETTER

GREATER BOWIE-CROFTON AREA CHAPTER 1747

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

Volume 34 No. 4

facebook.com/narfe1747 or narfe1747.org

April 2016

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:** Thursday, April 21. NARFE Presentation on Aging in Place. Speakers, DFW representative from Aging and Disabilities Resources, and Trish Foley, Director, Community Services.

❖ **General Meeting:** Thursday, May 19. Annual Maryland Legislative Update; **Kenhill Center** (Old Bowie City Hall).

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JERRY KURSBAN

The NARFE STRATEGIC PLAN

"Secure the Future" has been published and is available to you on NARFE.org Strategic Plan/Table of Contents. A video is also available for viewing on the NARFE website, narfe.org (log in and click on the Strategic Planning banner). Our area was instrumental and well represented in the creation of the Plan. Evelyn Kirby, our Region II Regional Vice President (RVP) was one of only four members who served on the Strategic Planning Team, and she also served as a member of the National Executive Board. Ted Jensen, past president of our Maryland Federation, served as a member on the Strategic Planning Committee. See the article on page 49 of your April 2016 NARFE Magazine where Ted is pictured and quoted: "Vision is definitely at the core of NARFE's strategic plan and the recommended changes to secure the future." See page 17 of the Strategic Plan for the proposed revised organization structure. One of the key proposed changes would be the addition of an Executive Director which will enable the organization to be managed and operated in a more professional manner.

What has driven the creation of the Strategic Plan is the "alarming" reduction in membership, which has declined from 313,000

to 224,000 in the last five years. NARFE membership peaked in 1984, at 491,067, but is currently less than half that number. It is noted that chapter membership was mandated in 1986, and membership has been steadily declining since that time. The Strategic Plan recognizes that baby boomers, currently aged 51–69 years of age "represent the 'sweet spot' for future NARFE recruitment." However, the chapter membership requirement is less attractive to the baby boomer generation, and chapters have been closing as the number of people interested in doing the work to maintain chapters is declining. Close to home, Chapter 1122 has requested a merger with our own Chapter 1747 due to a lack of interest of a sufficient number of members to perform the work of their chapter.

The recommendations contained in the Strategic Plan will be a central part of the 34th NARFE National Convention of 2016 which will be held in Reno, Nevada, from Aug 28 through Sept 1 at the Grand Sierra Resort and Casino. You can register online at narfe.org/convention2016 or by filling out the registration form on page 51 of your April 2016 NARFE Magazine, where you will also find details regarding hotel arrangements and airline discounts. On July 26 a National Convention Preparation Meeting will be held at the Bowie Comfort Inn.

REMINDERS

The deadline to submit applications in the NARFE 2016 Scholarship Program is April 29, 2016. To obtain the application and competition rules, go to narfe.org and click on the Scholarship Program graphic on the home page. The deadline for the NARFE Calendar Photo Contest has been extended to April 15 (see page 48 for details). The NARFE Federal Benefits Institute will present a webinar "Claiming Social Security" on Thursday April 28, at 2 p.m. Eastern time and "Exploring TSP Withdrawal Options" on May 26 also at 2 p.m Eastern time. For details on other webinars, go to narfe.org/institute and see page 43. The 5th edition of NARFE's Q&A Book is available—see page 48 for details.

Continued on page 2

President's Message continued from page 1

Wishing you all a wonderful April and hope to see you at our April 21 Chapter meeting. We focus on aging in place with two speakers who will discuss the wide range of services available from the state and home modifications you can try to make staying in your home less physically taxing.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION
JERRY KURSBAN

President Obama's budget, sent to Congress on February 9, contained modest good news for federal employees and retirees. It included a 1.6 percent pay raise following three years of pay freezes; six weeks of paid parental leave for the birth or adoption of a child; significant investments in cybersecurity at OPM in response to data breaches; and an increase in the number of staff who respond to customer inquiries in OPM's Retirement Services Center. The Office of Management and Budget credited NARFE's efforts as being instrumental in removing a proposal to cut Federal Employee's Compensation Act (FECA) benefits from the President's budget, a proposal NARFE has long opposed.

The House Budget Committee approved the fiscal year (FY) 2017 budget on March 16. The budget includes a directive to the House Oversight and Reform Committee to reduce spending under its jurisdiction, which includes federal retirement and health benefits. NARFE judges the prospect for passing the House and Senate as low.

On March 22, the House Ways and Means Social Security Committee will discuss H.R. 711, which would reform but not repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO). While NARFE continues to support full repeal of the WEP and GPO, it will support H.R. 711 because of the lack of Congressional support for full repeal. For more detail, see pages 6 and 7 of your NARFE April 2016 Magazine.

S. 2699 introduced on March 16 would provide a 5.3 percent across-the-board increase for federal employees for 2017, which NARFE supports. Cosponsors include our Maryland Senators, Barbara Mikulski and Benjamin Cardin.

REMINDERS

Check out articles in your NARFE April 2016 Magazine. H.R. 4461 would restrict the rights of federal employee unions and S. 2450 would limit administrative leave (page 9); the NARFE Bill Tracker (pages 10-12); Q&As (pages 14-16); Closing the TSP Rollover Gap (pages 22-26); State Tax Parity (pages 30-34) and State Tax Treatment of Federal Annuities (pages 36-40).

Notice that the average salary for a full-time federal employee in 2013 was roughly \$79,000 (page 8). NARFE Service Officers are available to assist you regarding your benefits at 800-456-8410. The NARFE Legislative Action Center, a one-stop site that can assist you in sending a letter to your Congress

person is at narfe.org. The NARFE Legislative Hotline provides a weekly update of legislative news. It is available by e-mail at narfe.org or by phone at 877-217-8234. Stay tuned.

STATE LEGISLATION
Ed Bice

SB 896 introduced by Sen. Kathy Klausmeier (District 8) and HB1300 introduced by Del. Carolyn Howard (District 24) received hearings on March 9 and March 14. These two bills are titled Tax Credit Long-Term Care Insurance Premiums. This subject has been advocated by NARFE for over ten years and has yet to receive a favorable report from the Senate Budget and Tax Committee or the House Ways and Means Committee. The bills would annualize the present one-time tax credit for the purchase and retention of Long-Term Care Insurance Premiums into two \$250 tax credits in 2017 and 2018, and a \$500 credit for 2019 and thereafter for new or returning purchasers. At this time, the Ways and Means Committee has voted to establish a task force to study the Long-Term Care Insurance subject. The bill will have to be voted on by the full House. If the House approves it, the bill will move to the Senate for further action.

2016 Legislative Update

At our May 19 meeting we will have our annual update with state senators and delegates from both political parties as our guests. This is always a good meeting enjoyed by all. Please come with questions. We want answers. I know I will. **Please note that this meeting will be held at Kenhill Center, Old Bowie City Hall, 2614 Kenhill Drive, Bowie, Md.**

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on: January 31, 2016	\$4073.00
Receipts:	450.00
Disbursements:	229.00
Balance on: February 29, 2016	\$4294.00
Reserve for Alzheimer's Fund	\$560.00

DAYS TO REMEMBER

- April 4-5 Region II Training Symposium, York, PA , Wyndham Garden Hotel
- April 21 Chapter 1747 Meeting Bowie Senior Center 10:00 a.m. Aging in Place
- April 22 Passover (begins at sundown)
- April 29 Last day for NARFE Scholarship Applications.
- May 2-3 Maryland Federation Meeting, Bowie Comfort Inn
- May 19 Chapter 1747 Meeting State Legislative Review

Take Us Out to the Ball Game...

Chapter 1747 Board Members and Membership have voted to hold our June Picnic on June 16, 2016 at the Baysox Stadium, Bowie, MD. Admission to the game, professional wait staff, taxes, service fees and the Ballpark Buffet are included for only \$26.00 per person. The stadium opens 1 hour before the 6:30 PM game. Parking is free. The Baysox Stadium is located on U.S. Route 301 at 4101 Crain Highway. Still have questions? Call **410-672-6528** for answers.

We will be accepting payments from January through June 6, 2016. Payments by check or money order can be sent to NARFE Chapter 1747, PO Box 504, Bowie, MD 20718-0504. Payments can also be made in cash, check or money order at our monthly membership meetings. A receipt is available on request.

The Ballpark Buffet

Fresh Tossed Salad
Grilled All Beef Hotdogs
Crunchy Chips
Assorted Cookie Tray
Iced Tea

Baked Beans
Pulled Chicken BBQ
Popcorn,
Strawberries
Lemonade.



Alcoholic Beverages are not included in the price.

Please include the form below to let us know how many people will be attending.

Your Name and Telephone	Number of Guests	Amount Enclosed
Names of Your Guests		

CHAPTER BOARD

Officers

President	Jerry Kursban	301-261-3329	jkursban@gmail.com4
1st Vice President	Frances Steburg	301-352-0297	feks@msn.com
2nd Vice President	Lillie Watson	301-383-1597	lwatson16@hotmail.com
Secretary	Jacqueline Wilson		missJackieV@aol.com
Treasurer	Howard (Flash) Gordon	301-464-2745	flash@acm.org
Assistant Treasurer	Louise Cole	410-672-6528	col9135@aol.com

Committee Chairs

Federal Legislation	Jerry Kursban	301-261-3329	jkursban@gmail.com
Membership	Lillie Watson	301-383-1597	lwatson16@hotmail.com
Newsletter Production	Jessica Forman	843-347-9287	jessicaforman@gmail.com
Programs	Vacant		
Service Officer	Bob Cullen	301-262-4783	ba3537@aol.com
State Legislation	Ed Bice	301-464-3748	debice@netzero.net
Alzheimers Fund	Dorothy Bice	301-464-3748	debice@netzero.net
NARFE-Net Coordinator	Howard (Flash) Gordon	301-464-2745	flash@acm.org
NARFE-PAC	Ed Bice	301-464-3748	debice@netzero.net
Photographer	Frank Lee	410-672-5065	fllee0716@verizon.net
Social Media Coordinator	Howard (Flash) Gordon	301-464-2745	flash@acm.org
Sunshine	Marjorie Laios	301-262-1566	

Next Meeting: April 21
NARFE Presentation
Aging in Place and Home Modifications

HELP NEEDED

Can you read this? If so, Flash—Howard Gordon—could use some help. Flash needs a backup for the chapter 1747 website. You do need to know how to get to the website, but you don't need to do anything exotic. Please contact Flash if you know you can, or if you are willing to learn a few basic skills to help maintain our website.

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. 4

Dues payments, gifts, and contributions to NARFE are not deductible as Charitable Contributions for income tax purposes.

To Live, Perchance to Dream?

With apologies to the Bard, our next meeting will focus on living your remaining years in your home, with some modification and maybe a little bit of outside help. But our bit of the dream, one of the cobblestones from the approach to the Lincoln Memorial inscribed with Martin Luther King's famous quote, embedded in lucite and including a booklet on the historic speech, will be awarded in June, at the Baysox Picnic. Get your chance at this solid memory of his speech by buying raffle tickets. You can buy them at the next two general meetings or send this form in before June 6th.



Dream 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