



NARFE NEWSLETTER

GREATER BOWIE-CROFTON AREA CHAPTER 1747

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

Volume 36 No. 2

narfe1747.org

November 2017

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

- November 16:** Monthly Chapter Meeting, Bowie Senior Center 10:00am – noon - Maryland Federation: Taking Action to Protect Your Benefits from Many Current Threats
- November 17:** Representative Raskin's FEHB Forum, 9:00 am, Holiday Park Senior Center, Wheaton MD
- November 20:** Representative Raskin's FEHB Forum, 7p.m. Executive Office Building, Rockville
- November 20:** NARFE Federal Benefits Institute Webinar 2:00pm narfe.org/institute
- November 23:** Thanksgiving
- November 30:** NARFE Webinar: 2pm @NARFE.ORG Discover Your Best Health Plan Option
- December 7:** Executive Board Meeting, Bowie, Senior Center, 10:00-noon
- December 21:** **Holiday Luncheon Party, Nautilus Diner, Gambrills, 11:30am-2:00pm**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jerry Kursban

Chapter 1747 will have a new President

Good fortune has smiled on NARFE Chapter 1747. Frank Lee has agreed to serve as our new Chapter President and Quentin Roundtree will become our new Treasurer. He is the son of Maryland Federation President Gary Roundtree. They will be officially installed at our Holiday Luncheon on December 21.

Several former Board members and I will be available to facilitate a smooth transition. Frank Lee has served as our Chapter photographer for many years and was the recipient of the 2017 Annual Annuitant Award at our October meeting. **CONGRATULATIONS.** Please make a special effort to attend our Holiday Luncheon and see our new Chapter officers installed.

NARFE-FEEA Disaster Fund

NARFE National President Richard G. Thissen, reminds us in his President's Column, on page 4, of our November NARFE Magazine, that in light of the huge recent disasters, such as Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria, this may be an especially appropriate time to contribute to the **NARFE- FEEA Disaster Fund (Federal Employee Education and Assistance Disaster Fund)**. FEEA is especially critical to federal employees and retirees as this organization is devoted solely to "Feds helping Feds." See the bottom of page 61 of your November NARFE magazine for the form to fill out and instructions. Your charitable contribution is tax- deductible.

Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)

The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) pledging season is underway and will last until December 15. A reminder that there have been two notable changes. First, *federal retirees will be able to donate to the CFC from their monthly annuity.* Second, federal employees who volunteer with certain charities will have those hours monetized and count toward CFC goals.

Chapter 1747 Membership Drive

The special membership drive is ongoing and will continue through December 31, 2017. Recruiters will receive \$30 for each new member, current or retired, who joins between September 1 and December 31, 2017. The Grand Prize is an **APPLE Watch**, and there will be a monthly prize in the amount of \$25. Ways to join include (1) the F-135 brochure (2) go online to narfe.org and click the JOIN

link; (3) Call 800-627-3394; or (4) use the application that appears in every issue of your monthly NARFE Magazine - see pages 68 and 69 of your November issue. **Don't forget to include your recruiter ID**, which can be found on the label of your monthly NARFE Magazine. To facilitate the recruiting process, there is a sample "Elevator Speech" available online at www.narfe.org. After your login, go to Officer Resources, Tips, Tools and Templates, and you will find it under recruiting tools.

Annual Health Fair

The speakers at our Chapter 1747 Annual Health Fair displayed a comprehensive knowledge of their product. What surprised me the most is that you may be eligible for a rebate on your policy. In general, there is an increased emphasis on prevention of illness in addition to cure.

I have requested each of the presenters to provide a one-page summary of their presentation. Open season will extend from November 13-December 11. I strongly suggest that you consult your NARFE Magazine. Check the Open Season Report on pages 42-56 and Part B coverage on pages 32-40. You may also want to review the articles in your October issue where it was advised that, "The single biggest mistake federal consumers make in containing their health care costs is failing to compare plans." So, take advantage of the extensive material available in your NARFE magazines.

Wishing good health to all of you and hoping to see you at our forthcoming November 16 chapter meeting!

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Jerry Kursban

There are so many issues potentially affecting federal pay and benefits, we can only mention a few! Let me repeat what I wrote in your September Chapter newsletter: **"Politicians regard SILENCE on an issue as an indication of APPROVAL."** Page 2 of your November NARFE Magazine contains an **ACTION ALERT**, which states that **"The fiscal year 2018 budget process poses the greatest threat to your pay and benefits."** Use NARFE'S Legislative Action Center to urge your legislators to oppose proposals that would harm the financial well-being of the federal family. NARFE stands against cuts to the earned pay and benefits of the Federal Community.

Go to narfe.org/legislation/votervoice.cfm for assistance in contacting your legislator. Take note that Congress has tasked the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) to examine potential changes to federal retirement. CBO put forth five options. See November NARFE magazine, pages 6 and 7 for details and check out NARFE'S Bill Tracker on pages 12 and 13.

Note that our Maryland legislators - Anthony G. Brown and Elijah E. Cummings have sponsored legislation that NARFE supports. You can find a list of NARFE's Legislative Priorities for the 115th Congress on the NARFE.org website.

You will be receiving a 2% COLA effective the first pay period in 2018. However, health care premiums increased 6.1%, which is the reason NARFE continues to strongly support CPI-E for the elderly. The Congressional Joint Budget Resolution contained no cuts to federal pay and benefits. The Continuing Resolution to fund the federal government will expire on December 8.

STATE LEGISLATION

Jerry Kursban

The Maryland NARFE 2018 State Legislative Program conducted by the State Legislative Committee (SLC) of the Maryland Federation of Chapters is pursuing three major initiatives. The first is **Tax relief for Maryland seniors**. By way of comparison, nine other states do not have any state income tax, and 14 states exempt all or part of Federal pensions from state and local income taxes. As an interim measure, NARFE supports **increasing the senior tax exemption from \$1,000 to \$10,000** to be phased in over a four-year period in order to mitigate the immediate fiscal impact. A second initiative is to increase the tax incentives for the purchase of **Long Term Care Insurance**, by providing for an annual \$500 tax credit. A third initiative is to increase the amount of eligibility to qualify to receive the Homeowners Tax Credit. The easiest way to contact a state legislator is through the Maryland General Assembly home page. **Click on Contact or Find a Legislator.**

TREASURER'S REPORT

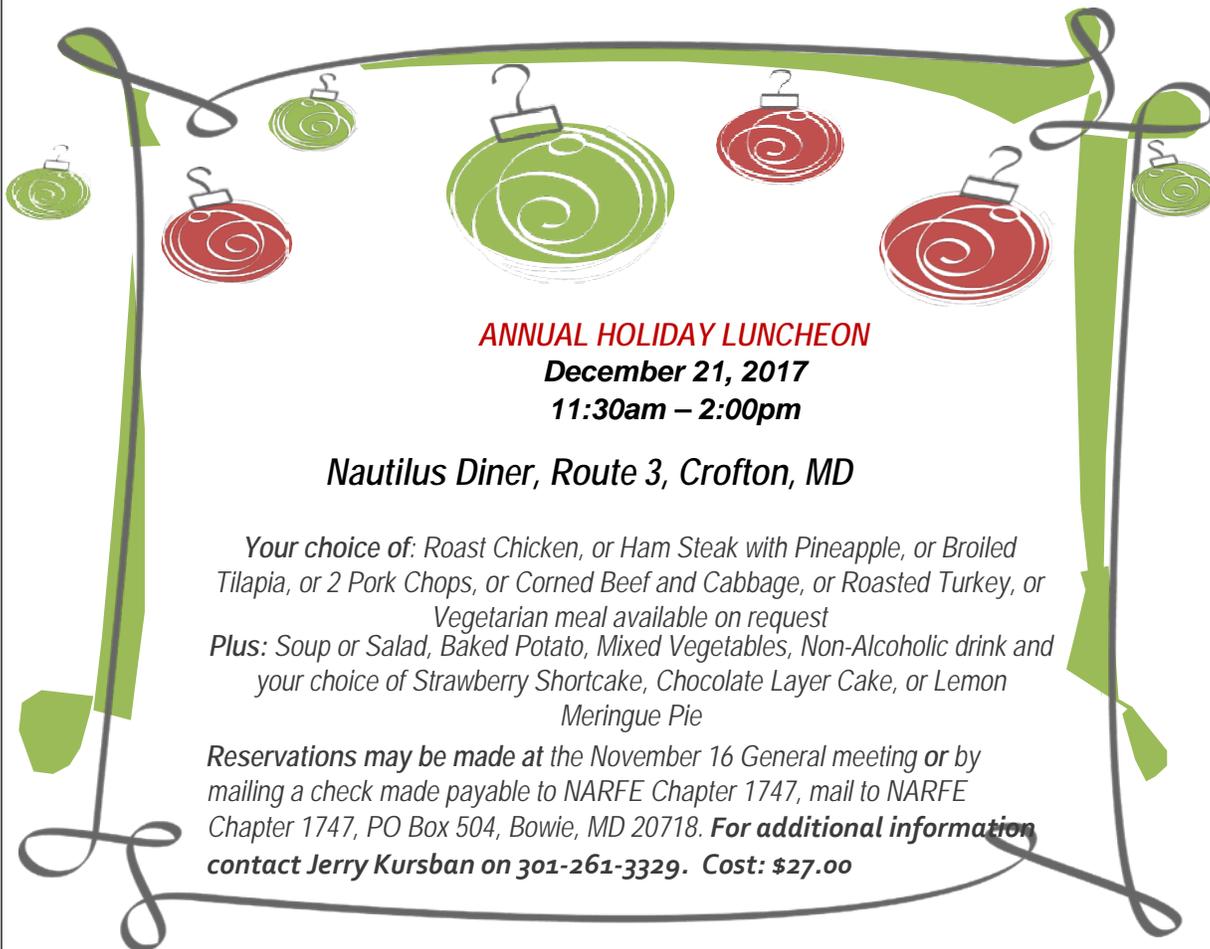
Balance on: September 30	\$11,116.27
Receipts:	487.98
Disbursements:	369.40
Balance on: October 31	\$11,234.85
Reserve for Alzheimer's Fund	295.00
Balance as of October, 2017	

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.

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



ANNUAL HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

December 21, 2017

11:30am – 2:00pm

Nautilus Diner, Route 3, Crofton, MD

Your choice of: Roast Chicken, or Ham Steak with Pineapple, or Broiled Tilapia, or 2 Pork Chops, or Corned Beef and Cabbage, or Roasted Turkey, or Vegetarian meal available on request

Plus: Soup or Salad, Baked Potato, Mixed Vegetables, Non-Alcoholic drink and your choice of Strawberry Shortcake, Chocolate Layer Cake, or Lemon Meringue Pie

*Reservations may be made at the November 16 General meeting or by mailing a check made payable to NARFE Chapter 1747, mail to NARFE Chapter 1747, PO Box 504, Bowie, MD 20718. **For additional information contact Jerry Kursban on 301-261-3329. Cost: \$27.00***



ANNUAL ANNUITANT AWARD

Congratulations to Frank Lee on receiving the Annual Annuitant Award. Mr. Lee has served as the Photographer for Chapter 1747 for many years.

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