



NARFE NEWSLETTER

GREATER BOWIE-CROFTON AREA CHAPTER 1747

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

Volume 36 No. 8

narfe1747.org

June 2018

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.

POSTAL ADDRESS: NARFE Chapter 1747, P.O. Box 504, Bowie, MD 20718

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

June 7	Executive Board Meeting, Bowie Senior Center, 10:00a-noon
June 14	Flag Day
June 14	Social Event, Bowie BaySox Stadium, 6:35p - 4104 NE Crain Hwy, Bowie, MD 20716
June 21	NARFE Federal Benefits Institute Webinar, 2:00p - Steps to a Speedy Federal Retirement
July 26	NARFE Federal Benefits Institute Webinar, 2:00p - Survivor Benefits: Ensure Your Peace of Mind

- Eliminating supplements for Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) annuitants who retire before being eligible for Social Security benefits.
- Reducing federal pensions by basing them on workers' basic pay five-years averages instead of three years.
- Increasing employee retirement contributions with no increase in benefits. The plan would sharply boost the 0.8 percent of basic pay most FERS employees contribute. The letter makes the impact on federal retirees clear. "Under this proposal, FERS employee deduction rates will increase by 1 % per year until they reach 7.25 % of basic pay... This proposal would require FERS employees to fund a greater portion of their retirement benefit"
- Reducing or eliminating retirement cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) under the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) by one half of 1% and to eliminate COLAs under the Federal Employee's Retirement System for current and future retirees.

In addition to these retirement cuts, the administration also has proposed freezing federal pay next year. "In exchange for years of hard work over long careers, our government made a commitment to middle class federal and postal workers that they would receive federal pensions in retirement." Said NARFE President Richard G. Thissen. "Those pensions are not gifts. Diminishing their value in any way for those who have already earned them-including by eliminating or reducing COLAs, altering how they are calculated, or eliminating an entire element of the pension - fails to honor the basic commitments made to our public servants." NARFE will have its work cut out in defending our hard-earned benefits.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Frank Lee

President Trump is proposing \$143.5 billion in compensation cuts for federal employees. In a letter to House Speaker Paul Ryan, Office of Personnel Management Director Jeff T.H. Pon pushed four proposals that, over 10 years, would significantly cut retirement benefits for 2.6 million federal employees and Survivors. Pon said that he wants to "bring Federal benefits more in line with the private sector" by:

Vacant Positions

We have several vacant positions to fill including Assistant Treasurer, Secretary, and Service Officer. I am seeking candidates to fill these vacant positions.

New Bylaws

I am pleased to announce that NARFE national has approved our new bylaws. The bylaws were distributed for comment in our February newsletter and approved on a voice vote at the General Meeting held on March 15.

Membership Chair

I am pleased to announce that Lillie Watson has agreed to be our Membership Chair. She will help me review the monthly membership reports and do follow-up with selected members.

2018 NARFE Elections

NARFE members are voting directly for national officers for the first time. I urge our members to view candidate statements and recommendations made by the MD Federation Resolutions and Executive Committees before voting. We recommend the adoption of Resolution BCR-01 to review/redesign our membership form and Resolution 18-13 to remove the financial incentive for recruiting national only members. Voting began on May 10, 2018 and ends on June 30, 2018.

Future Attractions

We have some exciting presentations scheduled for the latter half of 2018. In September, Tywana Hamilton from MD Primary Care Physicians will talk on things that seniors can do to help maintain their health. Our annual Health Fair will be held at the Kenhill Center in October. In November, Care Patrol will present their service for helping families find independent and assisted living facilities. Anyone who may need to find an assisted living facility for themselves or for a family member should attend this presentation. A representative from Care Patrol will assess the family's need for assisted living care and identify assisted living facilities which meet the family's criteria. This service is free to the family. Our Holiday Party will be held in December at a place to be determined. In January, Diane Polangin of Total Tax Service will return to talk about taxes. Please plan to attend these exciting presentations.

Legislative Wrap-up

Ed Bice moderated the legislative wrap-up at our May 17 meeting. Legislators who attended included Senators Edward Reilly and Douglas Peters and Delegates Joseph Vallario and Tony McConkey. The legislators summarized legislation which was passed and discussed legislation of interest to seniors which was not passed. The legislators noted that they were able to work with their colleagues "across the aisle" to pass legislation. We are fortunate in having legislators who are willing to work across the aisle to pass legislation on our behalf. I would like to thank Ed Bice for continuing to lobby the General Assembly to pass legislation to benefit seniors.

Chapter 1747 ANNUAL SOCIAL EVENT



*June 14, 2018
Bowie BaySox Stadium
4104 NE Crain Hwy
Bowie, MD*

SEE YOU THERE!!!!

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Jerry Kursban

JUNE ACTION ALERT issued by NARFE National

"Although a 2019 pay freeze may not affect you personally, this proposal is the most likely from the president's fiscal year 2019 budget to gain traction in Congress. **Legislators need to hear opposition from all NARFE members now. Use the Legislative Action Center to send a message, tweet or call your legislators today to oppose a pay freeze in 2019.**" NARFE has recently made it simpler and easier to contact your legislator in order for YOU to preserve your earned pay and benefits. An action letter, call script and tweet are now available in the same location in the Action Center, the one-stop site available to help you send a letter to Congress and more, at www.narfe.org. To start, visit NARFE's Advocacy page and click on NARFE's Legislative Action Center. Then click on "advocacy campaigns" and select the topic about which you would like to contact your legislators. The first option is to send an Action Letter. A summary of the issue is located at the top of the screen, followed by a pre-written message. It is strongly suggested that you customize your message based on your legislator's known viewpoints and state/district demographics and add your own experience in order to personalize the issue and draw attention to how it affects you. You can do this by clicking on the text in the body of the message. Remember that personalized letters to Congress get more attention than form letters. Another action you can take is to call your congressional representative and tell them what you are concerned about. Use NARFE's toll-free number (1-800-456-8410), then press option 5 when prompted to contact Congress. Follow the call script available under the "Call" section of the Action Center. You can contact NARFE'S Advocacy Department at any time if you have questions about how to take action or if you need help navigating the Action Center by contacting advocacy@narfe.org or 1-800-456-8410, press option 3. For more details on how to contact your legislator, see the article 'New Ways To Take Action: Write, Tweet or Call Your Legislators' on page 10 of your NARFE May 2018 Magazine.

As the headline published in The Washington Post in March 16, 2018, "Trump Seeks Deep Federal Cuts" reported: "Earlier this week, Trump signed an executive order, designed to reorganize the executive branch" As a part of this initiative, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) released the President's Management Agenda on March 20. As published in the article "President's management agenda seeks to improve performance" on pages 15 and 19 of your June 2018 NARFE Magazine, the agenda seeks to improve government by focusing on three drivers of better government: IT modernization, a workforce for the 21 century, and data, accountability and transparency." NARFE's position is that "Unfortunately, the agenda contains unnecessary reference to the administration's budget proposals to freeze or cut federal compensation across-the-board, in exchange for a more limited pool of funds for performance-based pay raises. Such proposals are not about modernizing federal compensation or recruiting and retaining a

well-qualified federal workforce. They are penny-wise, pound foolish policies that scapegoat federal employees in the name of budget savings."

Finally, after five continuing resolutions, an omnibus spending package was approved by Congress which will fund the federal government through the last day of September 2018. As reported in the article "Omnibus Sets 2018 Funding but Risks Emerge for 2019 Budget (on page 18 of your June 2018 NARFE Magazine), "The federal community was at risk during the negotiation of the two-year spending agreement, but NARFE members answered the call and contacted their legislators to protect the federal community. Offsets worth \$100 billion were approved, but none came at the cost of federal employees' earned pay and benefits. With funding set for the remainder of 2018, threats to earned pay and benefits are no longer at risk through the 2018 budget process.

However, negotiations on the FY19 budget are already underway, meaning NARFE members need to remain vigilant. NARFE members should keep up with the latest dealings of Congress and be ready to take action in the event that lawmakers take aim at federal pay and benefits."

TREASURER'S REPORT	
Balance on: March 31, 2018	\$10,012.32
Receipts:	\$1,125.58
Disbursements:	\$468.68
Balance on: April 30, 2018	\$10,669.22
Reserve for Alzheimer's Fund	\$419.00

CHAPTER 1747 OFFICERS

<u>Officers</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Contact Number</u>	<u>E-Mail Address</u>
President	Frank Lee	410-672-5065	fllee0716@verizon.net
Vice President	Jerry Kursban	301-261-3329	jkursban@gmail.com
Treasurer	Vanessa Washington	301-883-4904	vwash411@comcast.net
Asst. Treasurer	Vacant	--	--
Secretary	Vacant	--	--
<u>Committee Chairs</u>			
Federal Legislation	Jerry Kursban	301-261-3329	jkursban@gmail.com
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Membership Chair	Lillie Watson	301-383-1597	Lwatson16@hotmail.com
NARFE/PAC Chair	Edward Bice	301-464-3748	de3637@verizon.net
Network Coordinator	Howard Gordon	301-464-2745	flash@acm.org
Service Officer	Vacant	--	--

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!
SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER!!

Where: Bowie Senior Center
When: September 18, 2018
Time: 10:00am



DON'T FORGET TO VOTE

NARFE BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED AT ELECTION SERVICE BY 11:59pm on June 30, 2018

The Bowie-Crofton NARFE CHAPTER 1747 would like to thank the following Maryland State Legislators, who took time out of their busy schedules to participate in the Legislative Wrap-Up.



Delegate Joseph Vallario, Jr.



Senator Douglas Peters



Senator Edward Reilly



Delegate Tony McConkey

Greater Bowie-Crofton Area NARFE News

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