



NARFE NEWSLETTER

GREATER BOWIE-CROFTON AREA CHAPTER 1747

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

Volume 37 No. 2

narfe1747.org

October 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

- | | |
|--------|---|
| Oct 4 | Executive Board Meeting,
Bowie Senior Center,
10:00a-noon |
| Oct 8 | Columbus Day |
| Oct 11 | NARFE Federal Benefits Institute
Webinar, 2:00p - FEHB & Medicare:
Understanding Your Choices |
| Oct 18 | General Meeting, Kenhill Center
Health Fair |
| Nov 8 | NARFE Federal Benefits Institute
Webinar, 2:00p - Health Plans:
What's New and How to Choose |

HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE MEETING!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Frank Lee

Former VP Joe Biden spoke these words in his tribute to John McCain at his funeral in Phoenix. "McCain lived by an ancient, antiquated code where honor, courage, character, integrity, and duty were what mattered. But the truth is, John's code was ageless, grounded in respect and decency, basic fairness, the intolerance for the abuse of power." We appeared to have strayed from these principles. When you vote in November, please remember these principles and vote for people who believe in them and will uphold them so that America will return to greatness and be the shining light for the world again.

2018 Profiles in Civil Service Booklet

The 2018 Profiles in Service Booklet is at the printers and will be available for distribution to the Maryland Delegation in September. This expanded edition contains over 100 profiles of Maryland NARFE members who have served in a wide variety of Federal Agencies in service to America. The forward was written by our Senators Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen.

Member Status

- Peter Hill has moved to Harford County and transferred to the chapter there.
- Paul Schuette, our long-time treasurer is recovering in Crofton Rehabilitation Center. Please visit him or send him a "Get Well" card.



**Volunteers
Needed**

Several chapter members have passed away in recent months that were recently reported to NARFE but may not have been listed in the Chapter's "Memoriam."

Members who have passed on are:

Jose F. Alonso	Arne Anderson
Betty F. Balla	Frank A. Carollo
John L. Dennison	Doris E. Gordon
Harry T. Jackson	Robert B. Noble
Doris M. Robertson	Gene P. Townend
Barbara A. Wheatley	

May they all rest in peace!



Membership Transactions

Membership transactions for August 1-31 included:

Members dropped:	5
Members transferred in:	1
Members transferred out:	5
Members passed away	3
Members reinstated	2
New Members:	0
Total Members (Sept 4)	648

VOLUNTEER to serve as Chapter Secretary, Assistant Treasurer or Service Officer

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Jerry Kursban

Status of Pay Raise for Federal Employees

According to NARFE President Richard G. Thissen, "It is imperative that NARFE members continue contacting their legislators in support of a pay raise for federal employees, as the conference committee process is underway. This is especially true for NARFE members who are constituents of a conferee listed below. (None of the conferees represent Maryland or Virginia) Not all NARFE members will be directly impacted by the outcome of this legislative battle, but fighting for this pay raise is in defense of the entire federal community. To single out and target federal employees during a strengthening economy while private-sector wages are rising, only shows a disdain for federal

public servants and the indispensable work they do. We cannot sit idly by while the civil service is under attack."

Through the conference committee process, 26 conferees will determine the fate of the calendar year 2019 federal pay raise as part of the fiscal year 2019 (FY19) Financial Services and General Government appropriations bill. The Senate version of the bill includes a 1.9 percent pay raise for federal employees in 2019; meanwhile, the House was silent regarding a federal pay raise in its version of the legislation. Conferees will decide if the pay raise will be included in the final version of the bill that is reported out for a final vote in each chamber. If Congress does not take action, the president's proposed pay freeze will take effect.

STATE LEGISLATION

Ed Bice

The State Legislative Committee (SLC) sent out in the spring and fall, a survey to some 564 candidates for governor and members of the General Assembly. These included incumbents seeking re-election.

The survey consisted of three questions, which captured our issues regarding tax relief for our senior population. The three questions sought a simple "yes" or "no" and were:

1) Permit Maryland taxpayers to itemize deductions on their Maryland tax returns whether or not they use the standard deduction on their Federal tax returns.

2) Extend the tax exemption of \$15,000 on pensions of military retirees over the age of 55 and the \$5,000 for those below 55 to the pensions of Federal, State, and local public service retirees.

3) Increase the supplemental tax exemption of \$1,000 for elderly taxpayers over the age of 65 and their elderly spouses to match the \$3200 exemption that can be claimed for elderly dependents.

We received over 130 responses, some 21 percent, to the survey. With a handful of exceptions, all those who responded answered "yes" to all three questions. We received no survey responses from Governor Hogan or Mr., Jealous, candidates for governor.

The list that below documents replies that we received from candidates from districts that cover our chapter members:

District 21

Senate

Jim Rosapepe (D) incumbent, all yes

House

Chike Anayanwa (R) all yes

Mary Lehman (D) all yes

District 23

Senate

Douglas Peters (D) incumbent, all yes

House

23A - Kathleen Crank (R) all yes

Geraldine Valentino Smith (D), incumbent, all yes

23B - Ron Watson (D) all yes

District 24

Senate

Joann Benson (D), incumbent, all yes

House

Erek Barron (D), incumbent, all yes

Jazz Lewis (D), Incumbent, all yes

District 33

Senate

Edward Reilly (R), incumbent, all yes

House

Tony McConkey (R), incumbent, all yes

Sid Saab (R), incumbent, all yes

It is now up to you to get to the voting booth and VOTE How your particular representatives voted is here for you. If your representative is not listed, it means that she/he do not return the survey and did not commit to supporting the issues raised in the survey.

During the time leading up to the election, it is safe to say that many candidates will be seeking your vote. Having the survey results in hand will be useful in generating a discussion regarding what level of support we can expect from them. Senator Peters from District 23 is the only one who returned the survey that sits on a committee that is of great importance regarding our senior tax relief bills. He is the majority leader of the Senate and is a member of Budget and Tax Committee. He deserves our full attention.

TREASURER'S REPORT	
Balance on: July 30	\$10,260.13
Income:	\$296.18
Expenses:	\$362.67
Balance on: August 30	\$10,193.64
Reserve for Alzheimer's Fund	\$433.00



CHAPTER 1747 OFFICERS			
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Service Officer	Vacant	--	--

VOTE - Maryland General Election - VOTE
Nov 6, 2018

Early Voting: Oct 25, 2018 - Nov 1, 2018
 Voter Registration Deadline - **Oct 16, 2018 9:00M EDT**
 Postmarked by **Oct 16, 2018 9:00PM EDT**

Request for Absentee Ballot: Request for Online Ballot by
 Nov 2, 2018 5:00PM EDT

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. 37, No. 2.

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