



NARFE NEWSLETTER

GREATER BOWIE-CROFTON AREA CHAPTER 1747

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

Volume 37 No. 5

narfe.org/chapter1747

December 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

- | | |
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| Dec 3 | Hanukkah |
| Dec 6 | Executive Board Meeting, Bowie Senior Center, 10:00a-noon |
| Dec 13 | NARFE Federal Benefits Institute Webinar, 2:00p-Estate Planning: What Feds Need to Know |
| Dec 20 | Holiday Luncheon
Blue Dolphin, 1166 Route 3 South
Gambrills, MD 21054 |
| Dec 25 | Christmas |
| Dec 26 | Kwanzaa |

Come join us!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Frank Lee

I would like to thank all those who voted on November 6 and earlier to not only to protect our rights and benefits but also to protect our democracy and democratic institutions. As a result of this election, the short-term threats to our rights and benefits has been lifted and the Trump agenda has been stopped. What lies ahead for the next two years is probably gridlock which is a probably a good alternative to the environment before the election. We hope that the two parties can find common ground to pass some important legislation but can't count on it. Besides the election's impact described above, another result of the election is that Obamacare has survived to provide healthcare to millions of people. The lesson of the recent election is that we can protect our rights and benefits and democratic institutions when threatened by exercising our right to vote. Your vote counts and made a difference. To continue to protect our rights and benefits and democratic institutions, we must keep vigilant and vote again in 2020.

2019 Profiles in Civil Service

Please submit your profile in civil service if you have not already done so to Patricia Farmer at www.buttonspaf@aol.com by December 1, 2018. The profiles have been well received by members of Congress and have proven to be an effective tool for publicizing the important work that civil servants do for our country. The 2019 edition of the profiles will be expanded to include profiles from NARFE members in Virginia, Washington, DC and Pennsylvania.

New Chapter Website

The Executive Board has designed a new website for the chapter. We hope to implement the new website at the beginning of next year. Please review the new website at www.narfe.org/chapter1747 and provide us feedback on the new website.



Federal Benefits Open Season

The OPM Open Season will be held between November 12, 2018 and December 10, 2018. To find information on the various health plans and to make changes to your health plan go to <https://retireefehb.opm.gov> or call 1-800-332-9798.

Federation Presentation to Chapter 1747

At our general meeting on April 18, 2019, our Federation President, Dr. Gary Roundtree Sr, and the 1st VP and Legislative Director Dr. Sudha Haley will make a presentation to us on Federation initiatives and activities.

Annual Holiday Luncheon

We are selling tickets for our annual Holiday Luncheon scheduled for December 20 at the Blue Dolphin. The cost is \$28pp. Please join us for our celebration of the holidays and to wish in a happy and healthy new year. Please mail your orders to the NARFE 1747 PO Box 504 by December 14 so that your order is included in the estimate that we give to the restaurant.

Membership Transactions

Membership transactions for October 1-31 included:

Members dropped:	7
Members transferred in:	0
Members transferred out:	3
Members passed away	4
Members reinstated	1
New Members:	0
Total Members (Nov 3)	631

Members who have passed on are:

Alfonso F. Geiger, Dennis McLean, Paul Schuette & Jacob Warner

May they all rest in peace!

Paul Schuette

A long-time member of Chapter 1747, Paul Schuette died on November 17, 2018. He was 89 years old. He is survived by 4 children and 6 grandchildren. Paul and his family moved to Washington, DC in 1960 when he joined the Washington Post as a reporter. He and his family moved to Bowie, MD in 1962 where they lived for more than 50 years. After leaving the Post, Paul worked for the Democratic National Committee and then began his federal career working for several agencies including the Food and Drug Administration, the Social Security Administration, and the Environmental Protection Agency. After retiring from the Federal government, Paul joined Chapter 1747 of NARFE where he held a number of positions including President, Treasurer, Chapter Editor, head of the State Legislation committee and Service Officer. We were blessed to have this talented man be a member of our chapter and may he rest in peace.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Jerry Kursban

FEDERAL PAY RAISE: DECISION DELAYED

Congress approved five of 12 spending bills which provided approximately 70 percent of discretionary funding for FY19. However, with the passage of a continuing resolution, lawmakers have delayed the deadline for the remaining appropriations, including a federal pay decision, until December 7, 2018. The president's proposed pay freeze

will be implemented unless Congress passes the remaining appropriations before January. While the Senate included a 1.9 percent average pay increase, the House has not yet passed an increase. The fate of this pay raise will depend on the 26 conferees coming to a bicameral agreement and reconciling the differences between the two chambers different versions of H.R. 6157. NARFE MEMBERS SHOULD CONTINUE TO CONTACT THEIR LEGISLATORS. NARFE makes it easy to contact your legislator. Contact NARFE's Legislative Action Center, a one-stop site to send a letter to Congress. The Legislative Action Center can assist you in identifying your Congressperson and includes a letter already drafted where you simply fill in your personal information if you desire. This proposed pay raise is not the same as the COLA that the retirees will receive. Consult page 9 of your December NARFE Magazine for details.

WEP REFORM

The Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) reduces the benefits of federal retirees covered by the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) who earned Social Security benefits through other employment. NARFE has supported a change in WEP for several years. A new WEP Reform Bill has been introduced - H.R.6933 - the Equal Treatment of Public Servants Act of 2018 - which would provide for an additional monthly payment for those whose Social Security benefits are reduced by WEP. Consult pages 6 and 7 of your December 2018 NARFE Magazine for details.

STAY FOCUSED; REMAIN VIGILANT

A reminder from our newly elected NARFE President Kenneth J. Thomas "Our earned benefits are at risk. Congress has created a framework constantly discussing cutting the deficit, and placing federal employees and annuitants squarely in the crosshairs. Our message to Congress couldn't be simpler. Don't balance the budget on the backs of active and retired federal workers. Now let's get to work." Consult page 4 of your NARFE December 2018 Magazine for a list of the major threats facing employees and annuitants, and a list of NARFE's priorities for protecting our benefits. Hope to see you at our Holiday Luncheon.

STATE LEGISLATION

Ed Bice

MOVING FORWARD

The State Legislative Committee (SLC) over the summer reviewed the survey results based on the three questions which denoted our legislative priorities for 2019. Based on November's election results committee members have been assigning legislative districts to arrange meeting with election winners who have supported our issues on the survey. The purpose of the meeting with legislators is to receive their agreement to sponsor/cosponsor legislation which will be introduced by Governor Hogan and/or by members of the General Assembly which supports our issues.

ISSUES for 2019

- 1.) Permit Maryland taxpayers to itemize deductions on their MD tax returns whether or not they use standard deduction on their Federal tax returns.
- 2.) Extend the tax exemptions 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 and their elderly spouses to match the \$3,200 exemption that can be claimed for elderly dependents.

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
State Legislation	Edward Bice	301-464-3748	de3637@verizon.net
Chapter Editor	Vanessa Washington	301-883-4904	vwash411@comcast.net
Alzheimer Chair	Edward Bice	301-464-3748	de3637@verizon.net
NARFE/PAC Chair	Edward Bice	301-464-3748	de3637@verizon.net
Network Coordinator	Howard Gordon	301-464-2745	flash@acm.org
Service Officer	Vacant	--	--

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

TREASURERS REPORT

Balance on: Sept 30	\$10,393.88
Income:	\$ 1,373.28
Expenses:	\$ 592.74
Balance on: Oct 31	\$11,174.42
Reserve for Alzheimer's Fund	\$ 461.00

Greater Bowie-Crofton Area 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.



NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES (NARFE) CHAPTER 1747 ANNUAL HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Date: 12/20/2018

Time: 11:00am-3:00pm

Place: Blue Dolphin

1166 Route 3 South



\$28.00 includes:

Tossed Salad, Vegetables:

Baked Potato, String Beans,

Entrees: Crab Cake,

**Chicken Marsala or Jr New
York Strip Steak**

**Dessert: Selection of Cakes and
Pies, Non-alcoholic Beverages**

Event Registration Form

Name _____

Telephone _____

E-Mail _____

Number of Attendees ____ **Amount Enclosed (\$28.00 x # Attendees)** _____

Mail this form with your check to:

NARFE Chapter 1747, P O Box 504, Bowie, MD 20718

****Receipt Upon Request**

Questions? Call: (410) 672-5065

****All Payments Are Due By December 14, 2018**

Make your payments early! There will be raffle/door prizes