



NARFE NEWSLETTER

GREATER BOWIE-CROFTON AREA CHAPTER 1747
National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

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October 2020

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

Virtual Meetings Using Zoom

- Oct 1** Executive Board Meeting, 10a
Virtual Meeting Using Zoom
- Oct 15** Chapter 1747 Health Fair, 10a, FEHB
Representatives Virtual Meeting Using Zoom
FEHB Representatives
- Nov 19** Downsizing Made Easy
Jennifer Tilghman

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Frank Lee

The new president and Congress will be facing multiple concurrent problems, the most serious being the coronavirus pandemic. The country needs a strong national plan to defeat coronavirus based on science not politics. The plan must be based on testing, contact tracing, and isolation of infected people, an approach used successfully by other countries to defeat coronavirus. It must emphasize the use of face masks and social distancing, the only tools we have to fight coronavirus until a vaccine is developed and becomes available to most people. Once we defeat coronavirus, we can fully reopen our economy and safely send our kids back to school.

The current policy of leaving the coronavirus response up to the states has proven to be inadequate. We have less than 4% of the people but have over 25% of the cases and deaths from coronavirus in the world. We have suffered 200,000 deaths from coronavirus so far and may suffer 400,000 deaths from the disease by the end of the year. We must find a way to defeat coronavirus.

The new government must rebuild the economy destroyed by the coronavirus pandemic. The pandemic has erased 5 years of economic growth and congressional leaders have not been able to agree on a relief package to aid people impacted by the economic slowdown. The government must provide assistance to the 30 million people who have lost their jobs, their health

insurance, and their income because of the pandemic, are facing eviction or foreclosure and are dependent on food banks to feed their families. Many jobs lost during the pandemic will not return, thousands of businesses have closed, and companies will not all emerge from bankruptcy. The U.S. Gross Domestic Product is projected to contract by 6.5% in 2020. It is projected to rebound to a 5% growth rate in 2021 and 3.5% in 2022. We need a president who can develop a strong economic recovery plan to lead the country out of recession.

The coronavirus is having a huge impact on school openings. Schools trying to open to in-person classes fear coronavirus outbreaks in their schools which have already occurred in some schools which have opened. Schools choosing to hold online classes have had to find computers for needy students and find ways for students to log on to the internet. In addition, their parents may not be able to return to work because they have to look after their children. Many colleges which have opened have experienced large outbreaks of coronavirus because their students are not wearing face masks and following social distancing and participating in large parties. The University of Alabama had over 1,000 coronavirus cases in a week. These issues are making it very difficult to open and conduct school during a pandemic. It will not be safe to open schools until we have coronavirus under control.

The new government must address the cries for social justice arising from current social protests. The new government must also address climate change to ensure that we create a safe environment for current and future generations. The world is burning and drowning. We must protect our planet.

We must vote for leaders that follow the law and constitution and work to promote the interests of its people rather than their own personal interests. The country can return to normalcy only after the coronavirus is under control. The new president and Congress will have their hands full. We must vote for a president and congressmen and women who can successfully address the many problems that we face.



Virtual General Meeting – September 17, 2020

Jennifer McAndrews and Beth Davies talked on senior care and housing options. Jennifer McAndrews described the various types of non-medical home care available from Synergy HomeCare. Non-medical home care is defined as what is not covered by regular health insurance or Medicare and does not require a doctor's order or referral. The goal is to "support those that are looking to remain living independently for as long as possible". The care can be provided in the client's home or other living arrangement. The services may be paid by the VA, through long term care insurance, or by the client. Beth Davies described the services available at the Arbor Terrace assisted living facility located at 2535 Evergreen Rd in Gambrills, MD. She showed pictures of the beautiful facility and said that they currently had 40 clients living there.

Voting Related Dates

Important voting related dates include:

- Oct 20 last day to apply for mail-in ballot
- Oct 26-Nov 2 Early Voting
- Nov 3, Election Day

Ways to vote: Mail-in Ballot, Early Voting, Vote on Election Day

If you vote by mail-in ballot, please send in your ballot ASAP because the Postal Service has made changes resulting in delays in the delivery of mail and your ballot must be postmarked by Election Day to be counted. Election results may be delayed this year because of the large volume of mail-in ballots expected. We must oppose all efforts to undermine the election including delaying the delivery of mail and the President calling mail-in voting fraudulent even though he is voting by mail-in ballot.

Payroll Tax Deferral for Federal Employees

The President has issued a Presidential Memorandum deferring payroll taxes on wages paid from September 1 through December 31, 2020. The deferral applies to any employee whose biweekly pre-tax wages or compensation is less than \$4,000 and whose company implements the deferral. While most businesses are not deferring the taxes on behalf of their employees, the President has mandated this change for Federal employees. NARFE President Ken Thomas warned that the deferral is not an increase in take-home pay but simply a short-term loan that needs to be repaid in full in 2021. To avoid financial problems, he urged Federal employees to save the extra income they receive in their paychecks for next year's taxes.

Promotion at Bowie Town Center

We are having a promotion at Bowie Town Center. The town center is creating a poster promoting NARFE to be displayed at the center for 2 months together with coverage of NARFE in their internal newsletter and social media page. I will let you know when and where the poster will be on display.

Collection for Alzheimer's Fund

We are going to take up a collection for the Alzheimer's Fund. When we met in-person, we took up the collection through our monthly raffle. Since we can't do that now, we are asking members to please send in their donation by check to NARFE Chapter 1747, P.O. Box 514, Bowie, MD 20718. Please make the check out to NARFE Chapter 1747 and note that it is for the Alzheimer's Fund. This is a worthy charity that we need to continue supporting. Thanks in advance for your contribution.

Coronavirus Pandemic Update

The U.S. has had over 6 million confirmed cases and 200,000 deaths from coronavirus so far and may reach 400,000 deaths from the disease by the end of 2020. With less than 4 percent of the population, the U.S. has over 25 percent of the cases and deaths in the world from coronavirus. The current strategy of leaving the coronavirus response up to the states is not working. We need to develop a national plan to defeat coronavirus based on science not politics. The plan must be based on testing, contact tracing, and isolation of infected people, an approach used successfully by other countries to defeat coronavirus. It must emphasize the use of face masks and social distancing, the only tools that we have to fight coronavirus until a vaccine is developed and becomes available to most people. The coronavirus pandemic is not over. We have experienced

over 1,000 deaths a day recently and 27 States have seen an increase in new cases since the end of August. We expect a second wave of coronavirus to arrive in the winter together with the seasonal flu. We have not yet defeated coronavirus. We must continue to be vigilant to avoid catching the virus.

Continuing Resolution Bill

The House overwhelmingly approved a bipartisan bill late Tuesday to keep the government funded through early December and avoid a shutdown just before the November election. The 359 to 57 vote sends the legislation to the Senate, which could take it up later this week and send it to President Trump. White House officials say they don't want a shutdown, and Trump is expected to sign the bill.

Key to Finding Happiness

"The key to finding happiness during this time is not through social distancing but rather through distance socializing," wrote the authors of the annual "World Happiness Report" in March. Maintaining ties with friends, colleagues and family, they continued, "is crucial."

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Lillie Watson

Chapter Activity Report - 8/1/20 to 9/15/20

523	Chapter 1747 Members as of Sep 21
13	Members Renewed
1	New Chapter Member – Jason Williams
8	Members Dropped for Non-Renewal
5	New Prospective Members
4	Members Passed Away – John McBride; Ronald White; Jacobus Kaper; and Ewald Schmidt

TREASURERS REPORT

Balance on: July 31, 2020	\$10,026.54
Income:	\$253.72
Expenses:	\$0.90
Balance on: Aug 31, 2020	\$10,279.36
Reserve for Alzheimer's Fund	\$45.00

Tips to Participate in Zoom Meetings

You will receive an email invitation from Frank Lee, President of Chapter 1747.

- 1) You can use a laptop, desktop, or telephone to log into Zoom.
- 2) Log in to a Zoom meeting by clicking on the link in your invitation and then click on "Open Zoom Meeting."
- 3) You will appear as a thumbnail size image on the screen. Zoom allows you to see and talk with participants in a meeting. The Zoom controls are displayed at the bottom of your screen. Click on the Audio or Video buttons on the bottom left if you need to restore these functions. You can leave a Zoom meeting at any time by clicking on the "Leave" button at the bottom far right.

Note: If you log on using a desktop computer, you can see and hear the other participants but can't communicate with them because desktop computers usually do not have a microphone or camera. Please sign on at least 10 minutes early, in case you need to make adjustments or test your system.



CHAPTER 1747 OFFICERS

Officer	Name	Contact Number	Email
President	Frank Lee	410-672-5065	fllee0716@verizon.net
Vice President	Kent Nilsson	301-613-9868	kentnilsson@live.com
Treasurer	Vanessa Washington	301-883-4904	vwash411@comcast.net
Asst. Treasurer	Louise Cole	410-672-6528	col9135@aol.com
Secretary	Vacant	--	--
Committee Chairs			
Federal Legislation	Frank Lee	410-672-5065	fllee0716@verizon.net
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	Vanessa Washington	301-883-4904	vwash411@comcast.net
Membership Chair	Lillie Watson	301-383-1597	Lwatson16@hotmail.com
Service Officer	Rhonda Hackley	301-335-0493	rmhackley716@gmail.com

**STAY SAFE
AND
PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING**

Greater Bowie-Crofton Area
NARFE Chapter 1747
P.O. BOX 504
BOWIE, MD 20718-0504
Narfe1747.org

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