



# NARFE NEWSLETTER

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

Volume 39 No. 4

[narfe.org/chapter1747](http://narfe.org/chapter1747)

December 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

- Dec 3** Executive Board Meeting, 10a  
Virtual Meeting Using Zoom
- Dec 17** Holiday Party (**Cancelled**)
- Jan 7** Executive Board Meeting, 10a  
Virtual Meeting Using Zoom
- Jan 21** Taxes, 10a, Diane Polangin  
Virtual Meeting Using Zoom
- Feb 4** Executive Board Meeting, 10a  
Virtual Meeting Using Zoom
- Feb 18** NARFE Advocacy Program Update 10a,  
Marsha Goad, Virtual Meeting Using Zoom

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Frank Lee

For the next 6 to 9 months, the coronavirus pandemic is going to dominate and control our lives. It will affect our life and life style and affect the way we celebrate the holidays. As described in my coronavirus article, coronavirus is running wild in the U.S. leading to daily and weekly records in new infections, hospitalizations, and deaths. Because of the increase in the number of cases, the health care systems in an increasing number of states are being overwhelmed because of the number of coronavirus cases. In addition, more health care workers are being infected leading to a shortage of staff.

The hardest hit states are being forced to temporary shutdown or reduce economic and social activity. Reducing economic activity at this time of year has dire consequences. Forcing restaurants to reduce patrons to 25% capacity may make it impossible for restaurants to make a profit and cause them to shut

down. Forcing retail stores to reduce operating hours will cause them to lose business when many businesses depend on Christmas to make most of their profits. Not applying restrictions may cause the virus to continue spreading in their community. Just reducing business activity may not solve the problem since many experts think that the current virus surge is largely due to people holding social gatherings in their homes. Telling people to wear face masks and practice social distancing in their homes when hosting social gatherings may not be practical. The best thing that we can do may be to encourage people to hold smaller and less frequent social gatherings in their homes. People are being urged to hold smaller Thanksgiving celebrations this year limited to only immediate family.

The new president will institute a national program to control coronavirus based on science. It will emphasize testing, contact tracing and isolation of infected individuals. The program will also emphasize the wearing of face masks and practicing social distancing. Since this approach has been used successfully by countries in Asia and Europe to control coronavirus, it should work in the U.S.

The challenge for the new president will be to convince citizens living in red states that the coronavirus is real and that they must wear face masks and practice social distancing to conquer coronavirus. The current president has done the country a great disservice by downplaying the pandemic and opposing the wearing of face masks and following social distancing. As a result, many of his followers think that the pandemic is not real. The new president will have a major challenge in convincing these residents that the coronavirus pandemic is real and that they have to follow public health guidelines to help our country control the spread of the disease.

The new president will have to unite the country on a unified approach to control coronavirus before the disease can be defeated.

Dr. Anthony Fauci said that "the cavalry is coming" to save us in the form of a coronavirus vaccine. However, it will not be available for most of us for another 6 to 9 months. Until then, we must continue to wear face masks and practice social distancing to avoid catching the disease.



### Collection for Alzheimer's Fund

We are taking 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. Since senior citizens are primary beneficiaries of the fund, we should all support this fund. Thanks in advance for your contribution.

### Open Season

The 2020 Federal Benefits Open Season will run from Monday, November 9, through Monday, December 14. It is an opportunity for federal employees and retirees to reassess the health care coverage that they and their families receive. Representatives from six federal health plans participated in our annual health fair held on Oct 28 to talk about their health plans. Since we were not able to meet in person this year, the health plans were not able to distribute printed materials on their health plan. Please contact your health plan's online resources or the OPM website ([www.opm.gov](http://www.opm.gov)) to get information on your health plan.

### Membership Drive

NARFE is sponsoring a membership drive again this year. It began on September 1 and runs through December 31. Current members can earn \$10 for each new member they recruit and be eligible for other prizes. Be sure to provide prospects with your NARFE member ID number so that you get credit when they join (It is the 8-digit number on the second line of the label on your NARFE magazine).

We know that many federal employees and retirees live in the Bowie- Crofton area. Our challenge is to find and reach out to them and get them to join NARFE. We need your help. Chances are you know a family member or friend who is a federal employee or retiree. If you are a federal employee, please tell your co-workers about NARFE. Please reach out to them and tell them about NARFE and encourage them to attend our monthly meetings to find out more about NARFE. If they wish to join NARFE, please have them complete a NARFE Membership Application form (F-135). Please ask them to join both NARFE and Chapter 1747. There is a form in your NARFE magazine. If you need more forms, please contact me at [filee0716@verizon.net](mailto:filee0716@verizon.net)

### Thanks to Our Heroes

Thanks to our heroes including our voters, our election officials, and our vote counters. Because they stood up for our country in a time of crisis, our republic has been saved. Thanks to the voters who stood for hours in long lines to vote and who risked catching covid-19 to vote for a candidate who will follow our laws and constitution and will uphold our democratic values. Thanks to our election officials who defended our voting system against false allegations of voter fraud. And thanks to the vote counters who worked tirelessly for several days to count the record number of votes. The Department of Homeland Security declared that the 2020 election was the most secure election in American history. Thanks to our efforts, we have successfully defended the keystone of our democracy, our election system.

### Biden Wins 2020 Election

With the end of the vote count and the declaration of a winner in North Carolina and Georgia, Joe Biden has won the 2020 presidential election and will become the 46th President of the United States. Biden won with more than 77 million votes compared to Trump's 72 million votes, a margin of more than 5 million votes. Biden won 306 electoral college votes while Trump got 232 electoral college votes. Biden's election is not official until the states certify their votes and the electoral college formally casts its ballots in mid-December.

While the president has not conceded the election and has initiated a series of legal actions in states alleging voter fraud, no voter fraud has been found and many of his legal actions have been dismissed. Lawyers representing the president in legal actions taken in Pennsylvania and Arizona have withdrawn from their cases. Secretary of States from a number of states including

Pennsylvania have confirmed that they have not found any evidence of voter fraud in their state. The Department of Homeland Security has declared that the 2020 election is the most secure election in American history. Karl Rove a former adviser to President George W. Bush has said that the margin of victory is simply too great to overturn the election without evidence of massive voter fraud. The president does not have a path to overturn the results of the election. Some people think that the president's legal effort is an effort to retire campaign debt and raise money for Trump's political efforts since most of the funds raised through his legal defense fund is earmarked to go to the Republican National Committee or to a Trump PAC.

While not conceding the election, the president is resisting efforts to aid in the transition to a new president. The president has not released contact information on government agencies and staff to the Biden transition team nor released funds to them designed to support the transition. The president has also not permitted the president elect to receive intelligence briefings. In addition, the president has fired the Secretary of Defense and some senior officials in the Department of Homeland Security. A number of former officials have raised concerns that these actions have increased national security risks. Let's all hope that these fears will not be realized before the president leaves office.

### Coronavirus in the U.S.

Coronavirus is running wild in the U.S. The number of new cases is increasing in every state and it is estimated that we may have 300,000 deaths by December 5. Hospitalization rates are also increasing in most states together with an increase in deaths. The average number of deaths per day is more than 1,000 despite improvements in treatment which make survival more likely. The U.S. currently has 10.7 million confirmed cases and 244,000 deaths.

According to experts, the alarming increases in nearly every state are primarily the result of small social gatherings that take place behind closed doors including dinner parties, game nights, sleepovers and carpools. Because of the surge, the governors of New Mexico, Utah, and Oregon have instituted severe restrictions on economic and social activity. In Utah, restrictions include banning people from hosting social gatherings with individuals other than those living in their households for the next two weeks. These governors were forced to institute the measures because the number of coronavirus cases had increased to the point where their medical facilities had difficulty in treating the number of new coronavirus cases. While Maryland has not reached this point, the state has seen an alarming increase in the number of new coronavirus cases and hospitalizations over the past two weeks and Governor Hogan has increased restrictions on economic activity such as reducing the capacity of patrons to dine in restaurants to 50% and limiting social gatherings to 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors. More severe restrictions will be coming if the number of new cases continues to increase.

Coronavirus cases are increasing because people are suffering from pandemic fatigue and not wearing face masks and practicing social distancing when gathering in groups. This situation will probably get worse when people gather to celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas. We must try to gather only in small groups, reduce the frequency of social gatherings, and wear face masks and practice social distancing wherever possible. Only if we change our behavior can we stop the spread of the disease. We don't want you to get the virus as a Christmas present. Please stay safe.



## Joining Zoom Meetings

Thanks to those who are participating in our monthly chapter meetings using Zoom. I encourage those who have not yet done so to please join our monthly meetings using zoom. You do not need a Zoom account to join a meeting. You just need to click on the link in the invitation E-mail that I send you to join a Zoom meeting using your computer. If you don't have a computer, you can join a Zoom meeting by telephone by calling Zoom at 301-715-8592 and entering the meeting ID and Passcode that I give you. While meeting through Zoom may not be as personal as meeting in person, this is the way we have to communicate until the pandemic is over and we can resume in person meetings. The important thing is that through Zoom, we can still hold our monthly meetings and provide you information on the status of Federal benefits and issues and information on subjects of special interest to senior citizens. We need your active participation in our chapter, so please join our monthly meetings using Zoom.

## Chapter 1747 Internship Program

We have started an internship program to get more members involved in our operations, learn how the chapter operates and be potential new officers. This is especially important because we will have an election for officers in May 2021 and need to ensure that we have enough officers to lead the chapter into the future. We need to find and train new officers because some of our officers have been with the chapter for more than 10 years and may retire soon and because Vanessa and I are currently performing multiple functions and need more help.

We met with our officers and interns on November 12 and assigned our interns designated tasks to learn how our chapter operates. Please let me know if you would like to join the internship program and get involved in the operation of our chapter.

## Chapter 1747 Promotions

Chapter 1747 is involved in several current promotions. We have a NARFE poster on display at the Bowie Town Center, we will be featured in an article in the December issue of Coffee News, and we will have an article in the December issue of the Bowie Senior Center newsletter. Please let me know of other ways that we can publicize NARFE and our chapter.

**MEMBERSHIP CHAIR - Lillie Watson**

## Chapter Activity Report - 10/1/2020-11/16/2020

Chapter 1747 Members as of 10/20/20: 518

- 2 New Chapter Members – Willie Graves, Reginald Washington
- 8 Members Dropped for Non-Renewal
- 3 Members Passed Away – Myron C. Rosenberg, Henry C. Wagner  
Robert B. Corbett
- 0 Members Sent Second Notice
- 6 New Prospective Members
- 18 Members Renewed

## Season Greetings

I would like to extend Seasons Greetings and a Happy New Year to everyone. This has been a strange and difficult year for everyone. But we have much to be thankful for and much to look forward to in 2021 including:

- Avoiding catching covid-19.
  - Holding a successful election with a record number of people voting to defend the keystone of our democracy.
  - Electing a president who will follow the law and constitution and work to promote the interests of the people.
  - Developing a national plan and multiple vaccines to defeat coronavirus.
  - Having a robust economic recovery after coronavirus is defeated.
- Returning to normal relationships with friends and family.
  - Being able to travel again.

We will all survive and get over the coronavirus pandemic. Have a Happy New Year and stay safe.

## TREASURER REPORT

Vanessa Washington

Balance on: Sep 30, 2020	\$9,504.31
Income:	\$317.28
Expenses:	\$14.99
Balance on: Oct 31, 2020	\$9,806.60
Reserve for Alzheimer's Fund	\$45.00

## CHAPTER 1747 OFFICERS

Officer	Name	Contact Number	Email
President	Frank Lee	410-672-5065	<a href="mailto:fllee0716@verizon.net">fllee0716@verizon.net</a>
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Asst. Treasurer	Louise Cole	410-672-6628	<a href="mailto:col9135@aol.com">col9135@aol.com</a>
Secretary	Vacant	--	--
<b>Committee Chairs</b>			
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